

Rural Geography
Research Group
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Royal
Geographical
Society
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Advancing geography
and geographical learning



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News to Editor: bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com * Photos: RGS-IBG, B.A. Scholten, LYNCS, D. Agol & F. Machado

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EDITORIAL: Economic incentives key to Indian farmers' cooperative energy-groundwater nexus



India's White Revolution is not resting on its laurels. The National Dairy Development Board and AMUL-model farmers' cooperatives advanced women in the Operation Flood programme that made India #1 world milk producer, 1970-96. Now women handle money in NDDB's National Dairy Plan for renewable energy, solar water pumping and smokeless cooking (<https://www.nddb.coop/node/1787>). In April 2019 we visited Mujkuva Village, 20 km from NDDB HQ in Anand, Gujarat, north of Mumbai: 10 linked houses get smokeless cooking and electricity for study and family evenings (see gas line in photo below). The 1000



by as many as three annual maize or fodder crops.

'Solar Pumping' uses tech licensed from a private firm via solar panels for irrigation of crops & pastures for cattle fodder. In the past many farmers 'liberated' electricity from the grid. Now subsidised solar panels and pumps can help decide which crops to plant and not over-irrigate. Example? Tomato yields were poor or took too much water in one area so a farmer switched to wheat and sold more electricity back to the grid for future credits. (See: Tushaar Shah et al (2018) <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aae53>)

- B.A. Scholten



New website! www.rara.co.uk Thanks to RGRG's Meagan Palmer-Abb and RGS-IBG's Sara Evans for building it!



village pilot will soon bloom to 5000 across India. An NDDB technician (pink shirt) emphasised that – just as in dairy Operation Flood - women manage the bank receipts from new biogas-slurry and compost production in milk villages. Old methane (CH₄) extractors used heavy concrete components. Left is a new PVC 'pillow' - easier to bury, use and repair. Women also control *Kobas Dam* (aka Dung Money) with (a) liquid- and (b) solid-micronutrients, and (c) phosphate-rich organic manure (PROM) for replenishing organic and non-organic soils depleted

1. RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum Mid-term Report, 24-26 April 2019 by Felipe da Silva Machado felipe.dasilvamachado@plymouth.ac.uk <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/felipe-da-silva-machado>



The RGS-IBG postgraduate forum mid-term conference sponsored by the Manchester Metropolitan University's Human Geography Department ran from 24th to 26th April 2019. It was a great opportunity for PhD students to present research and discuss ideas with fellow postgrads in a friendly, supportive environment. As a social event it offered opportunities to network with postgrads from all corners of the discipline.

The paper session 'Rural resilience and change' had two speakers, Emma Thomas from the Department of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool, and myself. Emma reported preliminary findings of a study addressing farmers as a fruitful arena for methodological discussions. Drawing upon qualitative interviews, she explored the methodological challenges of interviewing farmers about lived experiences of, and perspectives on river environments.

experiences of, and perspectives on river environments.

I presented a paper titled 'The hybrid (rural) geography of metropolitan regions: farming systems and the diversified countryside in Greater Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).' The talk engaged narratives of farming resilience within the contradictory relationship between urban, industrial and global forces. The complexity of outcomes, in which the leadership of rural actors can create new forms of spatial ordering, and adapt to new scenarios of regional change in Rio de Janeiro, contributes to understanding hybrid (rural) geographies in the contested countryside of metropolitan regions.



Green space in Manchester's Hulme Ward relieves urban stress

Manchester was one of the world's first industrial cities. Although the industrial revolution brought wealth to the city, the poverty of much of its population made it an incubator for left-wing politics in the era of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. More recently, after decades of unrest followed by intense capital regeneration, the residents of Manchester's Hulme Ward started an inner-city horticultural project to have a space of their own. In the year 2000, the Hulme Community Garden Centre opened. It is a community-led inner-city horticultural project, promoting voluntary activity, urban gardening and food production, independent living, and general well-being.

Morag Rose, lecturer in Geography at The University of Liverpool, presented the workshop 'Walking as a research method.' According to her, walking together breaks down hierarchies and facilitates deep, affective encounters with the environment. The group took an introductory tour through walking interviews and sensory ethnographies on the university campus.



My presentation (below left) argued that learning to live with change and uncertainty, and combining different types of knowledge, are critical for building a resilient rural future. In the context of Rio de Janeiro's hinterland - depending on the relative distance from the built-up metropolitan core and local agrarian history - urban and peri-urban farmers contest their permanence in a multifunctional countryside. As a result, in different parts of the metro region, it is common to encounter not just urban conversion but also contested countryside, where farmers resist and adapt to urban encroachment. Finally, when it was time to give the brain a little rest, the conference dinner featured street style food at GRUB (<http://www.grubmcr.com/>) food fair.

As a PhD candidate in Human Geography in the UK and 2018-19 postgraduate representative in the Royal Geographical Society Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG), I would like to thank the sponsors, particularly Manchester Metropolitan University Geography

Department for their support.

In addition, I would like to thank the RGRG for the travel grant. The quality of papers on a wide range of topics pleasantly surprised me, generating stimulating discussions. – **RGRG News**



Felipe enjoyed presenting and meeting international postgrads at the mid-term conference.



VOTE! RGRG AGM, 29.Aug.19 Thursday lunch (13:10-14:25)

2. RGRG Abstracts for RGS-IBG Annual Conference London, 28-30 August 2019

<http://conference.rgs.org/Conference/Sessions/SearchResults.aspx?conference=AC2019&rg=RGRG>



Lunchtime at RGS-IBG annual conference in London (BAS 2017)

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2019
Rural Geography Research Group
Wednesday 28 Aug 2019
Rural Resilience and Resourcefulness (1)
Wednesday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) [Click for session details](#)

Rural Resilience and Resourcefulness (1)

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group
Convenor(s) Megan Palmer-Abbs (The Innovation School: Glasgow School of Art, UK)
 Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK)

Chair(s) Megan Palmer-Abbs (The Innovation School: Glasgow School of Art, UK)

Timetable Wednesday 28 August 2019, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Session abstract Rural or Peripheral Areas can be depicted as places of lesser qualities, often disadvantaged by distance and timeous access to services, new technologies, depicted as lagging behind more developed areas (Palmer-Abbs, 2017; Steiner & Teasdale, 2017; Townsend et al, 2015). They are sometimes regarded as places set in time, rural idylls, preserved for those who wish to 'visit' and enjoy notions of prettiness (Halfacree, 2007). However, despite these identities these spaces are places of resilience and resourcefulness (Palmer-Abbs, 2017), affected by the troubles and tribulations presented from both indigenous and endogenous events. Current global climes (climate change, digitisation, migration to name a few) impact upon rural communities in many ways. We suggest it is how rural communities and individuals meet, face and overcome these troubles and challenges that makes and builds the identities of these spaces.

This session calls for papers which build on this picture but illustrate innovative and entrepreneurial approaches which strive in times of trouble to overcome adversity. We are particular interested in interdisciplinary research but are keen that innovation and entrepreneurship thread throughout your presentation.

This session is part of a two-part session (panel followed by Innovation Café), it is our intention presenters will play an active part in the following group discussions.

Linked

Rural Resilience and Resourcefulness (2): Innovation Café

Sessions

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: ac2019@rgs.org

Laboratory life. Two decades of experimental research geography in depopulated and remote rural areas Angel Paniagua Mazorra (CSIC, Spain)

Since the year 2000 I have carried out continuous research, mainly qualitative, in remote and depopulated rural areas. But, I have never written the most personal experiences, experiences and opinions in the time of permanence in the areas of research and work. My points of view as a person, and not only as a researcher, who lived the experience of depopulation and spatial marginality have suggested points of view that in many cases are not directly applicable to research. These refer to several: (1) Simple perceptions as a researcher of changes in remote rural areas. The sensations of the evolution of these spaces, either in a positive or negative sense, and the personal subjectivity to the 'progress or innovation' of / in many of these areas, including a certain affectivity and sorrow or pain for the loss of their most intimate socio-spatial identity; (2) personal experiences in remote rural areas, in relation to improvements in roads, accommodation ..., which facilitated the field work of the researcher; (3) the changes that occurred in the evolution of life in its double personal/scientific dimension and its influence in the approach to research areas; (4) the more emotional dimension of work in remote rural areas, including a certain personal 'remoteness' from more bureaucratized research.

Local Business in Community Resilience to Natural Hazards David Clelland (University of Glasgow, UK)

While 'community resilience' has developed a diversity of meanings and definitions, in policy terms it is usually interpreted as the capacity of places to "help themselves in an emergency" (Cabinet Office, 2011), often in relation to extreme weather events. This can be seen as transferring responsibility for immediate response to groups and individuals, particularly volunteers (Bulley, 2013; Steiner and Markantoni, 2013), with links to notions of community empowerment. Local governments seek to promote this capacity in a variety of ways, commonly focusing on rural areas that may be less accessible to emergency services and other responders.

Although businesses are potentially important actors in communities (particularly in rural areas), with assets that can contribute to their resilience, there is however little evidence on how they engage in local emergency planning and response. Existing research tends to focus on the continuity of businesses themselves on the one hand, and their role in longer-term rural socio-economic resilience on the other. This research seeks to bridge this gap, based on a survey of community groups across Scotland and qualitative research with local stakeholders.

This analysis suggests that the volunteer-centred framing of community resilience tends to overlook businesses as part of the rural 'community', and that businesses' participation can be related to both firm- and community-centric 'postures' (McKnight and Linnenlueke, 2016). Through developing understanding of how, why and with what results businesses engage in planning and response, these findings have implications for how resilience to natural hazards is promoted and suggest questions for further research.

A characterization of Alternative Food Networks in terms of their social innovativeness Felix Zoll (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany) Rosemarie Siebert (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany) Kathrin Specht (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany)

Social innovation is a concept of societal transformation and changing social practices that gains increasing attention in times of social and environmental crises. The prevailing food production system is an example for a system facing increasing pressure for change. Discontent with social, economic and environmental grievances of the current food system leads to an increasing number of people who organize themselves in Alternative Food Networks (AFN), which are often considered as a part of a food system transformation. However, a comprehensive analysis of AFN as social innovation is missing. The objectives of our research are i) to evaluate if the AFN models community-supported agriculture, food cooperatives and self-harvest gardens produce social innovations, and ii) to provide an overview, how exactly the social innovativeness is characterized for each model. We conducted interviews with AFN producers and consumers of three different AFN models and applied qualitative content analysis based on a social innovation framework. The results show that AFN participation produces a broad variety of social innovation characteristics and different AFN models have different foci. Community-supported agriculture and food cooperatives focus more on the reconnection between producers and consumers expressed through social interaction or community-building. Self-harvest gardeners have a strong focus on changed social practices such as growing their own food and having a nature experience. Even though AFN can induce a growing awareness for negative impacts of agriculture and influence consumption patterns, we conclude that the effect on food system transformation is still limited at this point.

Agroforestry and the Valorisation of Ecosystem Services: A Value-Chain Study of Silvopastoral Systems in Selected Italian Farms Nina Rohrig (Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany) Tim Roesler (Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany) Markus Hassler (Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany)

Combining livestock production and trees in silvopastoral agroforestry systems have shown to be valuable in fostering the provision of ecosystem services. For farmers, these systems provide an opportunity for diversifying their product range and spreading economic risk. This study assessed if farmers can additionally incorporate the ecological value and transform it into an economic one. Applying the concepts of global value chain (GVC) and global production network (GPN) analysis, the evolution of value was

mapped for eight farms in the Italian regions of Umbria and Lazio. Production benefits and ecosystem services resulting from the interactions between animals and trees contributed to product value either by (i) minimising costs per unit or (ii) adding value through the marketing of quality attributes such as environmentally friendly production, taste or heritage. Although all farmers in this study recognise ecological benefits of their production system, only a few of the smaller farms advertise it. Due to a lack of possibilities to label products from silvopastoral systems as such, farmers must rely on close connections to consumers for marketing or use organic certification if selling over greater distances, raising questions on the proportionality of valuing ecosystem services as a public good.

Energised rural Welsh communities: exploring the development and social impacts of community energy in Wales
Sioned Williams (Bangor University, UK) Corinna Patterson (Bangor University, UK) Sophie Wynne-Jones (Bangor University, UK)

Community-led and owned renewable projects not only generate renewable energy as part of a transition to a low-carbon society but also produce social impacts within their rural communities. This develops 'energised' Welsh communities. However, there is a need to extend the evidence-base and map the added-value from community renewable energy (CRE) projects with a detailed consideration of the potential processes that lead to social impacts. In this context, such processes may reflect discrete aspects of community resilience and resourcefulness, supporting local sustainability. The PhD study focuses on mapping the underpinning processes and resulting outcomes for local communities engaging in CRE. This centres primarily on the social and cultural impacts as well environmental and economic contexts. The study is based on a qualitative case study approach focused on four rural case studies that represent different configurations of technologies, geographical locations and community profiles. This involved semistructured interviews to examine the perspective and experiences of key stakeholders (n=18). The paper outlines the key findings which suggest that rural communities seek to harness local natural resources for local benefit, producing rural resilience and resourcefulness from community involvement and collective action. These were generated by the CRE projects through a 'Sense of ownership', 'Building confidence and capacity' and 'Local decision-making'. As part of this process balancing bridging and bonding networks was an important feature, with social capital building capacity for action through strengthened network connections. The motivations and experiences of participants in the CRE case studies highlighted how these elements fostered resilient rural communities.

Rural Resilience and Resourcefulness (2): Innovation Café Wednesday Session 2 (11:10-12:50) [Click for session details](#)

Rural Resilience and Resourcefulness (2): Innovation Café Affiliation **Rural Geography Research Group**
Convenor(s) Megan Palmer-Abbs (The Innovation School: Glasgow School of Art, UK) Keith Halfacree
(Swansea University, UK) Chair(s) Megan Palmer-Abbs (The Innovation School: Glasgow School
of Art, UK) Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK) Timetable **Wednesday 28 August 2019,**
Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)

Session Rural or Peripheral Areas can be depicted as places of lesser qualities, often disadvantaged by distance and timeous abstract access to services, new technologies, depicted as lagging behind more developed areas (Palmer-Abbs, 2017; Steiner & Teasdale, 2017; Townsend et al, 2015). They are sometimes regarded as places set in time, rural idylls, preserved for those who wish to 'visit' and enjoy notions of prettiness (Halfacree, 2007). However, despite these identities these spaces are places of resilience and resourcefulness (Palmer-Abbs, 2017) affected by the troubles and tribulations presented from both indigenous and endogenous events. Current global climates (climate change, digitisation, migration to name a few) impact upon rural communities in many ways. We suggest it is how rural communities and individuals meet, face and overcome these troubles and challenges that makes and builds the identities of these spaces.

Building on the previous session this session invites attendees to reflect, debate and build on the theme of innovation, resilience and resourcefulness. We will form groups to reflect on theme which have arisen from the presentations but bring our own research and knowledge to the table, looking for similarities and differences in events, our theoretical perspectives and our impact on the wider communities and agents (policy and players).

The session will offer space to conceptualise outcomes and present short overviews which take the agenda forward. At the end of the session we will take your contributions and script feedback that can be used to further the concept of rural communities as places of resilience and resourcefulness. It is our intention to seek a special edition in the Journal of Rural Studies with outcomes.

- 1) Overview of presentations
- 2) Group work activities and discussion
- 3) Present outcomes
- 4) Q&A session /Discussion

**Rural Resilience and Resourcefulness (2): Innovation Café Linked
Rural Resilience and Resourcefulness (1) Sessions**

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: ac2019@rgs.org

Trust in rural land governance (1) Wednesday Session 3 (14:40-16:20) [Click for session details](#)

Trust in rural land governance (1)

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Clare Barnes (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
Rachel Hunt (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
Samantha Staddon (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Chair(s) Clare Barnes (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
Rachel Hunt (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
Samantha Staddon (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Timetable Wednesday 28 August 2019, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Session abstract Trust is at the heart of questions of rural land governance which involve interactions between actors from different sectors (the public, state, non-state and corporate), across multiple levels. Land governance arrangements are often characterised by conflicting perspectives, experiences and interests across and within these sectors, making it imperative to understand processes of establishing, maintaining or losing trust, in such arrangements. Through their 'typology of trust' Stern and Baird (2015) argue that trust promotes the efficacy and resilience of natural resource management institutions, however others caution against a naïve focus on promoting good governance as a way to improve trust and relationships (Grindle 2017). Increasing scrutiny of 'street-level bureaucracy' (Lipksy 2010) and of the practices and performances of 'intermediary' actors (Funder & Marani 2015, Flachs & Richards 2018) highlights the importance of understanding how trust emerges, or flounders, in everyday encounters between actors. Geographers have been challenged to question what trust does, where and how it works, and to what end; in part by paying attention to the 'technologies' of trust', in which trust is inscribed through words, numbers, instruments, and space (Withers 2018). Feminist geographers and political ecologists point to the importance of the ir-rational, of emotions, of informal spaces and of embodied everyday encounters and practices in the building of subjectivities, of relations, and thus of trust and cooperation around land governance (Nightingale 2011, Nightingale 2013, WynneJones 2017, Pickerill 2009). Such work advances a perspective attentive to the situated, relational and emergent properties of trust, along with its political, historical, social and cultural dimensions and its material and symbolic expression.

Trust, trustworthiness and distrust are of growing interest to geographers (Withers 2018), but whilst "trust is one of the most fascinating and fundamental social phenomena [it is] at the same time one of the most elusive and challenging concepts one could study" (Lyon et al. 2012 p.1). This session aims to unpack this elusive concept in relation to rural land governance, bringing together experience and insight in relation to the questions such as:

- How does trust emerge between the range of actors present across difference sectors?
- How is trust maintained/lost over time, and how is it expressed?
- What factors, processes, spaces and 'technologies' facilitate or inhibit the building of trust?
- What role does trust play in on-going rural land governance?
- How might trust be actively promoted and enhanced?
- How can trust be understood methodologically and conceptually?

Linked Trust in rural land governance (2)

Sessions

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: ac2019@rgs.org

Introductory presentation Samantha Staddon (The University of Edinburgh, UK) Clare Barnes (The University of Edinburgh, UK) Rachel Hunt (The University of Edinburgh, UK) Introduction

The role of social relationships and learning in the adaptive management of the Scottish uplands Antonia Eastwood (James Hutton Institute, UK) Alice Hague (James Hutton Institute, UK) Anke Fischer (James Hutton Institute, UK)

Land use policy in Scotland is increasingly attaching greater importance towards the interests of the public; that is, a greater emphasis on the delivery of public goods and multiple benefits from both public and private land. This drive towards delivering multiple benefits, such as natural flood management, habitat restoration and sustainable deer management at a landscape scale poses a challenge to the Cairngorms National Park Authority where land management objectives often vary considerably between neighbouring estates and are sometimes in conflict. In our study we examine through qualitative interviews and social network mapping the complex array of factors, social interactions and experiences that influence learning and decision-making in different

land managers and governance structures, and how these interact to promote or hinder adaptive management approaches across neighbouring estates, landscapes and the National Park. We focus on the networks of land managers and analyse the character of their relationships with the actors around them, in particular, as enacted through existing and evolving formal and informal collaborations in the National Park between land owners (public, private and NGO), agencies and the Park Authority. We conclude by exploring the role of trust in these relationships and discuss ways to garner social learning and promote collaboration across such complex and diverse sets of values, knowledge bases, experiences, skills and governance arrangements.

Trust and legitimacy in the governance of rewilding Alison Martin (University of the Highlands and Islands, UK)

Currently within Scotland a range of initiatives are underway which to a greater or lesser extent constitute rewilding or rewildinglike management. These occur within a range of contexts and scales and encompass a variety of activities e.g. the reintroduction of beaver, or large-scale habitat restoration. Rewilding is a very contemporary issue and associated activities are a significant development in land use, land management and conservation particularly in rural areas. This sits within the unique context of Scottish land ownership, a progressive Land Reform agenda and a push for greater community involvement (ownership and engagement in decision-making) based on underlying principles of human rights and land use for the common good. Whilst research has looked into the ideas and practice of rewilding and investigated the multiple and often conflicting definitions of what is 'wild', little attention has been paid to the governance and landownership structures within which these activities occur. Much has been written about what 'rewilding' means to people but we lack a clear structure or frame of reference for how rewilding decisions are governed, made and implemented, and by whom.

This talk will provide a brief introduction to rewilding theory and practice in the context of land governance in Scotland and then focus on the role of trust and legitimacy within that context. Rewilding is a somewhat 'specialist' conservation approach, with the term itself being culturally constructed open to varying definitions and meanings, and often with uncertain or experimental outcomes in practice. Reintroductions in particular can trigger strong conflicts. In parallel, land reform is increasing the diversity of those involved in land use-related decision-making processes. I will present findings from a literature review and exploratory interviews and discuss the role of trust, legitimacy and interrelated aspects such as claims to knowledge in the governance of rewilding.

A Partnership Approach: Embodied Encounters within the Lake District National Park Faye Shortland (University of Birmingham, UK)

Governed by a partnership of twenty-five diverse organisations, the Lake District National Park, now also a UNESCO World Heritage Site since July 2017, is faced with a complex future regarding the management of the site. Trust, therefore, is vital for successful management, particularly in the current climate of political uncertainty. The twenty-five partner organisations may have differing aims and objectives, however, they must work cohesively to ensure the smooth running of the site into the future. This paper will explore ways in which trust and communication can be built between these partners based on recent ethnographic fieldwork within the Lake District National Park. Focusing on the personal, every day, embodied encounters of the people who work within these partner organisations, this paper seeks to demonstrate the clear passion, understanding, and value that is placed on this site. Despite the fact that these organisations have differing aims and objectives, ranging from the cultural to the natural, this paper will show how they can effectively work together and build up trust between themselves and wider communities within the site.

Discussant

Clare Barnes (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Rachel Hunt (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Samantha Staddon (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Discussant

Trust in rural land governance (2) Wednesday Session 4 (16:50-18:30) [Click for session details](#)

Trust in rural land governance (2) Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group Convenor(s)
Samantha Staddon (The University of Edinburgh, UK) Clare Barnes (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
Rachel Hunt (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Trust in rural land governance (2)

Chair(s) **Samantha Staddon (The University of Edinburgh, UK)**
Clare Barnes (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
Rachel Hunt (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Timetable **Wednesday 28 August 2019, Session 4 (16:50 - 18:30)**

Session abstract Trust is at the heart of questions of rural land governance which involve interactions between actors from different sectors (the public, state, non-state and corporate), across multiple levels. Land governance arrangements are often characterised by conflicting perspectives, experiences and interests across and within these sectors, making it imperative to understand processes of establishing, maintaining or losing trust, in such arrangements. Through their 'typology of trust' Stern and Baird (2015) argue that trust promotes the efficacy and resilience of natural resource management institutions, however others caution against a naïve focus on promoting good governance as a way to improve trust and relationships (Grindle 2017). Increasing scrutiny of 'street-level bureaucracy' (Lipksy 2010) and of the practices and performances of 'intermediary' actors (Funder & Marani 2015, Flachs & Richards 2018) highlights the importance of understanding how trust emerges, or flounders, in everyday encounters between actors. Geographers have been challenged to question what trust does, where and how it works, and to what end; in part by paying attention to the 'technologies' of trust', in which trust is inscribed through words, numbers, instruments, and space (Withers 2018). Feminist geographers and political ecologists point to the importance of the ir-rational, of emotions, of informal spaces and of embodied everyday encounters and practices in the building of subjectivities, of relations, and thus of trust and cooperation around land governance (Nightingale 2011, Nightingale 2013, WynneJones 2017, Pickerill 2009). Such work advances a perspective attentive to the situated, relational and emergent properties of trust, along with its political, historical, social and cultural dimensions and its material and symbolic expression.

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- What role does trust play in on-going rural land governance?
- How might trust be actively promoted and enhanced?
- How can trust be understood methodologically and conceptually?

Linked

Trust in rural land governance (1)

Sessions

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: ac2019@rgs.org

Hefted to Hill: Addressing a dialectic of distrust through artist-research Ewan Allinson (Independent)

Upland policy in the UK is marred by a dialectic of distrust between conservation bodies and hill-farmers. The former are empowered by science to frame decision-making while the latter are 'fenced-out' of those decisions, creating a 'participation deficit' that undermines the sustainability of remote rural communities (Dalglish, 2018). In addition to mental health stresses for farmers themselves (Shaw, 1998), this structural antagonism impedes upland policy because the farmers' own depth of understanding is not deployed. My proposed PhD research, the scope and methodologies of which I will discuss*, will build on my existing collaborative work with tenant hill farmers in Teesdale, Co Durham, about which I shall also talk (<https://northernheartlands.org/event/hefted-to-hill/>). Testimony recorded out on the farm becomes the basis for theorising the aesthetic-ontological character of farmers' understanding. The depth of trust needed to carry this out is achieved through a process of exchange which begins with me providing them with 5 days each of expert dry-stone walling. The purpose of this work is to disrupt the dialectic of distrust by articulating the foundations of their knowledge to their satisfaction, helping empower them in their relations with government agencies and NGOs. Employing fieldwork techniques from cultural geography, it is my position as an artist-researcher that is critical to building the trust needed. Artists have, and are perceived to have, the social ambivalence required of honest-brokers. This 'free-radical' aptitude has been the basis of my leadership roles in award-winning HLF-funded place-based partnerships in Teesdale (Kershaw, 2018), the success of which provides the impetus for this research.

From trust towards stewardship in transforming landscape: habitual perspective Kadri Kasemets (Tallinn University, Estonia)

This paper examines local landscape management by focusing from a temporal habitual perspective to the locals and newcomers' pragmatic everyday material enactments that fallows landscape change. The study takes the governance perspective, the involvement of the people concerned, which is especially important in the period, where agricultural practices have become increasingly disconnected from the rural community and thus from rural development (Pedroli et al., 2016). It is indicated the need for finding a particular balance in the political ecology of landscape management that involves the practices of pragmatic everyday life, the taskscape, and a culturally and symbolically loaded structural impact (MacNeill, 2017). As a case study, the rural villages of Holvandi and Vanaküla, in Põlva Parish, Estonia, are examined. These villages locate in the southeastern part of the country that is known as the poorest region in terms of health and income. It will be studied how new breath has been given to these environments in the period of local generational transformation and structural change. It will be focused to the long-term vitalist local accommodation practices that have accompanied the emergence of new social and physical infrastructures. The study indicates the interconnection of habitual everyday practices and the emergence of specific trust towards locality that allows

developing a specific place attachment, trust, and therefore, stewardship towards landscape. References: MacNeill, R. J. (2017). Two journeys: Forces that unite and disperse a community in the homeland. *Journal of Material Culture* 22(3), 348–365., Pedrol, B., Correia, P., Primdahl (2016). Challenges for a shared European countryside of uncertain future. Towards a modern communitybased landscape perspective. *Landscape Research* 41(4), 450–460.

Trust dimensions in the Modified Taungya System of forest governance in rural Ghana David Amuzu (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

Access to and governance of the degraded forestland in Ghana is occasionally facilitated through the Modified Taungya System (MTS) which features competing interests of actors (farmers and forestry commission) to produce a sustainable balance between farming and reforestation. However, how the properties of social relationships such as (dis)trust drive the evolution, establishment and governance of MTS areas remain unaddressed. This paper triangulates both qualitative and quantitative research methods to examine how trust influences the two MTS demarcated areas of rural forestland. One MTS area is under implementation whilst the other has already reached its completion phase. It is discovered that land scarcity and the need for fertile forestlands are the most critical source of motivation for the participation of MTS. Community members were entrusted to participate in the reforestation process not because they were forest destroyers. Rather, institutional failures of forest governance and forest politicisation stimulated forest invasion, rampant illegal logging and subsequent forest fires, which established the bases for community members to obtain or regain trust in the reforestation process of the MTS. Moreover, social relations of crop production among community members in the MTS areas, limited resource capacity and managerial hegemony of the forest managers constrain and undermine the community trust. This paper concludes that for effective MTS and sustained community trust in forest governance, empowerment and capacity building mechanisms should be immensely prominent in the calculation of the reforestation program.

Discussant
Samantha Staddon (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
Clare Barnes (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
Rachel Hunt (The University of Edinburgh, UK)
TBC

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Thursday 29 Aug 2019

New and Emerging Rural Researchers (1): Rural People, Mobilities and Cosmopolitanism - Thurs Session 1 (09:00-10:40) [Click for session details](#)

New and Emerging Rural Researchers (1): Rural People, Mobilities and Cosmopolitanism

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University, UK)
Felipe da Silva Machado (University of Plymouth, UK)

Chair(s) Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University, UK)
Felipe da Silva Machado (University of Plymouth, UK)

Timetable Thursday 29 August 2019, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Session abstract This annually held Rural Geography Research Group session looks to explore new and emerging ideas across rural geography by discussing the work of postgraduate and early career researchers. It is hoped to prompt lively discussion as research ideas and results are presented in a friendly and constructive forum. We hope this session can continue to be well attended, with discussion conducted in a friendly, welcoming and constructive manner, which is widely appreciated by all those attending.

Papers can be drawn from any area of rural research: empirical, methodological or theoretical, from rural development, to culture, economy, farming, nature and policy.

Linked [New and Emerging Rural Researchers \(2\): Rural Places, Global Troubles and Hopes](#)

Sessions

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: ac2019@rgs.org

The farmer-farm relationship in later life: exploring the intersections of insideness and farm environments Shane Conway (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland) John McDonagh (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland)

Maura Farrell (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland) Anne Kinsella (Teagasc Agricultural Economics and Farms Surveys Department, Ireland)

The senior generation's unwillingness to relinquish managerial duties and retire is a globally recognized characteristic of intergenerational farm transfer. This is despite the array of financial incentives put in place to stimulate and entice the process. Applying Rowles' concept of 'insideness' as a theoretical framework, this paper brings into focus the suitability and appropriateness of previous and existing farm transfer policy strategies, by presenting an insightful, nuanced analysis of the deeply embedded attachment older farmers have with their farms, and how such a bond can stifle the necessary hand over of the farm business to the next generation. This research employs a multi-method triangulation design, consisting of a self-administered questionnaire and an Irish adaptation of the International FARMTRANSFERS Survey in conjunction with complimentary Problem-Centred Interviews, to generate a comprehensive insight into the intricate, multi-level farmer-farm relationship in later life. The overriding themes to emerge from the analysis of empirical research are farmer's inherent desire to stay rooted in place in old age and also to maintain legitimate connectedness within the farming community by remaining active and productive on the farm. Additionally, there is a strong sense of nostalgia attributed to the farm, as it is found to represent a mosaic of the farmer's achievements as well as being a landscape of memories. The paper concludes by suggesting that a greater focus on the farmer-farm relationship has the potential to finally unite generational renewal in agriculture policy efforts with the mind-set of its targeted audience, after decades of disconnect.

Urbanisation of rural education or ruralisation of urban students?

Victor Salinas-Silva (University College London, UK)

Rural education is arguably one of the most romanticised topics in education. An aspect that often underestimates the dynamism of rural places and rural society (Woods 2005). Building in the theory of Lefbvre (1974) and Latour (1991) on the representation of space, the research conceptualizes the rural as a hybrid and networked space. It aims to shed light on the understanding of rural spaces by teachers and how their work is shaping the territory in rural localities. The research was qualitative in its approach focusing on rural teachers from an agro-livestock province of the centre-south region of Chile. 83 out of 113 schools were surveyed from the target province. Three rural teachers in the province were selected as in-depth case studies considering their local knowledge, relationship with stakeholders and community.

Results indicate two processes of rural schools urbanisation, particularly in peri-urban areas. On the one hand, there were schools rapidly transitioning from rural to urban due to the urban sprawl of the capital city in the province, neglecting their rural legacy in the process. On the other hand, a different group of schools successfully refocused their pedagogy to adapt to the growing number of students that were left behind by the urban school system, providing with an alternative in the public education system of the province. Both school profiles provided with evidence on the importance of teachers' local knowledge to restructure rural schools by adapting (or not) their professional practices.

Public participation in rural environmental decision-making: A mixed-methods mapping approach Caitlin Hafferty (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

There have been numerous calls for rethinking, developing and implementing more inclusive approaches for engaging individuals and communities in environmental policy and planning. The complex and dynamic nature of environmental issues requires a decision-making process which embraces the diversity of people's knowledges and values, particularly regarding issues relating to the management and protection of their local landscapes. As such, there is a clear need for the widening and diversification of public participation in environmental decision-making in ways which enhance the co-production of local knowledge and policy. One way in which this can be achieved is through better understanding the social dimensions of people's day-to-day engagements with the rural environment.

Decision-making processes in rural environmental planning and management are often reliant on the use of quantitative data which is analysed and displayed within Geographic Information Systems (GIS). However, the conventional use of GIS in environmental management has been criticised for being inequitable and overlooking the complex social aspects of environmental issues. To address these criticisms and meet this apparent methodological gap, this project positions itself within a new area of research, Qualitative or Mixed-Methods GIS, which is concerned with developing ways of integrating qualitative data more effectively within a geospatial decision-making framework. In its early stages, this research aims to evaluate different methods for capturing and representing people's everyday engagements with the river environment in the Upper Thames catchment area (Gloucestershire, UK), to improve collaborative and participatory water-related policy and planning in rural areas.

Passive, victims or unintended misrepresentation?

Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University, UK)

The categorisation of rural African women as passive victims within rural communities affected by land grabbing in Africa is one that has dominated current narratives on the impact of land grabbing on rural places in Africa. Land grabbing by multinational companies for the cultivation of monocrop plantation to meet the global demand is a prominent dimension of globalisation in Africa, and the impact on livelihoods, identity, power and land rights are key ways in which globalisation is experienced in the everyday lives of rural communities in Africa. Significant gaps exist in scholarly literature in terms of the positive outcomes of the land grabbing phenomenon for rural African women, with most literature suggesting that women are merely 'passive victims' that the outcomes are straight forward and usually benefits the patriarchy, with women forced to accept their roles as mothers and wives, and live with the decisions of men. This paper draws on an in-depth ethnographic research conducted in Senjeh District,

Liberia, to argue that women are no longer bystanders in rural Africa and that women do contribute to the conversation and experience benefits separately from men. There are also indications that the arrival on the scene of civil society groups has created a space for women to aspire to attain economic and social relevance which were initially not available to them. The impact of globalisation is also an important factor to consider when discussing changing gender roles as a result of land grabbing. Key words: Land grabbing; passive victims; rural African women.

**New and Emerging Rural Researchers (2): Rural Places, Global Troubles and Hopes Thursday
Session 2 (11:10-12:50) [Click for session details](#)**

New and Emerging Rural Researchers (2): Rural Places, Global Troubles and Hopes

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University, UK)
Felipe da Silva Machado (University of Plymouth, UK)

Chair(s) Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University, UK)
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Timetable Thursday 29 August 2019, Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)

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Linked Sessions **New and Emerging Rural Researchers (1): Rural People, Mobilities and Cosmopolitanism**

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A Beautiful Ruin? The case of the English Lake District Faye Shortland (University of Birmingham, UK)

The English Lake District has recently been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (July 2017). Since this designation many questions have been raised about the management of the site. The site is managed by a partnership of twenty-five organisations, all with differing perceptions of what the Lake District should look like and what it should represent. This paper will focus on recent ethnographic work within the Lake District exploring these differing perceptions and representations. These contestations over what the Lake District should represent have effects on the future of agricultural, environmental, and heritage policies. This leads to the question: whose perception and representation takes precedence and what does this mean for organisations who do not align with this? Influenced by the work of Emery and Carrithers (2016), Bender (1993), and Tilley (1994) this paper seeks to explore how these perceptions and representations can be used for political deployment.

The English Lake District: where culture and wildness meets Basak Tanulku (Independent Scholar)

The paper questions the meaning of "wildness" by extending it to cultural elements such as local vernacular culture, political and social autonomy, and haunted sites. While wildness is usually understood as something related to nature and opposing to culture, in some cases, cultural elements of a landscape provide wildness.

The paper's case study is the Lake District, which became a UNESCO world heritage site in 2017 under the category of "cultural landscape", which created various debates on its effect on the number of visitors, the region's natural and cultural heritage and the future of hill farming. The Lake District is rarely understood as "wild". Instead, it has been appraised for its beauty and is a well-managed holiday destination visited by millions of tourists. Contrary to this, there are initiatives to rewild the region by reintroducing some of the native species and returning some of the valleys into a natural condition such as the famous case of "Wild Ennerdale" project. The region's cultural heritage and the rewilding efforts seem to oppose each other: while the first is the product of an iconic farming industry, the second refers to the region's ancient and original inhabitants, i.e. its wildlife. This paper will ask whether a cultural landscape can be at the same time a wild one or can cultural elements be the part of the wildness of a landscape.

Application of Actor-Network Theory in food tourism space: the case of the Westhoek region, Belgium Ryo Iizuka (Teikyo University, Japan)

For the last several decades, tourist interests have diversified, and ruralities derived from traditional cultures and lifestyles are valued as authentic tourism resources. Particularly for food tourism which depends on such rural resources, how ruralities are commodified directly affects the quality of tourism itself. Because the commodification of ruralities is represented and embodied by actors at various levels—from the public to the private or the local to the global—it is important to illustrate a multi-layered network of those actors to capture the spatial development of food tourism. Thus, this paper uses Actor-Network theory to explore the progress of the commodification of ruralities through the development of food tourism which uses traditional culture and life in West-Flanders in the Westhoek region, a rural touristic area in Belgium. Specifically, the development process of promotions and programmes for food tourism in the Westhoek region is outlined, and expressions of the commodification of rurality in public materials, brochures and homepages are reviewed. Furthermore, from interviews with related actors, the relationships of each actor are revealed, and the means of offering rurality as a commodity are captured. Consequently, in the Westhoek region, the commodification of rurality at each level of actors is taken and consumed by tourists—sharing and working local private actors such as Horeca, breweries and farmers on the food supply chain, and municipal, regional and provincial actors. Moreover, the multilayered relationships of those actors make food tourism space more stable.



Climate Change Vulnerability Index: A practical tool for regional planning and development Manoranjan Ghosh (Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India) Somnath Ghosal (Indian Institute of Technology, India)

It is generally acknowledged that poor people in the Global South are highly vulnerable due to global as well as regional climate changes. From the existing literatures, based on India, it is noticed that often the studies regarding climate change impacts are model-based estimation of climate change vulnerability. However, these model-based approaches lack ground reality. Therefore, there is a need to explore the bottom-up effects of climate change on livelihoods generation in the rural part of the Global South. Therefore, household-based primary field survey studies can help to overcome the uncertainties which exist in climate model based vulnerability assessment. Here, a new climate change vulnerability index has been proposed with a rigorous case study and empirical evidence based climate change vulnerability assessment as well as its regional patterns have been examined. In India, so far no study has been conducted considering the regional climate vulnerability assessment based on primary households survey. The proposed index-based vulnerability assessment method is strong in both the ontological approaches, including data-driven and theory-driven. The present climate change vulnerability index has empirically been validated in thirteen Community Development Blocks (CD Block) located in sub-Himalayan West Bengal, India.

It comprises 384 household samples and twenty-two indicators covering significant socio-economic and resource profile of the study region. The proposed climate change vulnerability index consists of six important dimensions of climate change vulnerability including climate variability, natural disaster risk, socio-demographic profile, livelihoods strategy, environmental profile, livelihoods insecurity, and accessibility of necessary infrastructure. The results suggest that the region where the temperature and rainfall instability is more the magnitude of risk is also high. The CD block, for instance, Alipurduar-II, Jalpaiguri, and Mal, which are highly exposed to climate variability and natural disaster risk, at the same time, has the low adaptive capacity. The livelihoods strategy, socio-demographic and environmental profile are the determining factors of the vulnerability of the study region. The regions which have high adaptive capacity are less sensitive to climate change vulnerability. Furthermore, survey findings indicate that adaptive capacity is high in Falakata and Rajganj CD block; therefore, these blocks are less susceptible to climate change vulnerability. On the other hand, the rate of exposure is also low. Finally, the overall findings of the present research would be helpful for policy makers to identify the priority region for suitable public schemes implementation as well as to plan sectors wise development strategy to tackle with the contemporary climate change vulnerabilities.

Agrarian memories, farmer narratives and farm development pathways in Rio de Janeiro Metropolis Felipe da Silva Machado (University of Plymouth, UK) Ana Maria S.M. Bicalho (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Rural-urban complexity is observed across Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Region where land use, economic and environmental policies have generated conflicts. From the 1970s onward urban land speculation became more intense in the Rio suburbs and neighbouring municipalities with increasing competition between different land uses as industry, residential and environmental areas advanced against agricultural use. Under these circumstances, agriculture became juxtaposed with other functions and interests, which resulted in a mosaic of diversified land use in both inner and outer metropolitan space. Depending on the relative distance from the built-up metropolitan core and local agrarian history, urban, peri-urban and peri-metropolitan farmers actively contest their permanence in an urban-pressured multifunctional countryside.

The paper discusses the complexity of farming in the industrialized Southeast Brazil, focusing on farmers' communities in Greater Rio de Janeiro. It is based on primary research undertaken over the last years. During this period, many of the places and

the farms were researched several times to detect change. An analysis of the nature of the place, founded on bottom-up information flows and qualitative investigations. To understand the complexity of farming at the rural-urban interface, this research assumes that rural studies should apply multi-methods approaches that enable researchers to engage more closely with farmers' life histories, farm trajectories, transitions and development pathways.



RGRG AGM in Cardiff last summer (BAS 2018)

VOTE! RGRG AGM during Plenary & Lunch (29 Aug. 2019 Thurs 13:10-14:25)

 <p>RGRG at Cardiff</p>	<p><i>Rural Geography Research Group Committee Members 2018-2019, after vote in our Annual General Meeting (AGM), Aug. 29, 2018. At the annual international conference of the RGS-IBG, Cardiff, Wales.</i></p>	<p>Prof Nigel Walford Chair 2016-19 n.walford@kingston.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Dr Bruce A. Scholten (BAS) Newsletter Editor 2018-21 bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com</p> 	<p>Dr Megan Palmer-Abbs (MPA) Secretary 2018-21 meganpalmerabbs@abdn.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Gareth Enticott Treasurer 2016-19 enticottg@cardiff.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Mr Andrew Maclaren Ordinary Member 2018-21 andrew.maclaren@abdn.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Ms Sonja Rewhorn C-Geog (netwkg) Ordinary Member 2016-19</p>	<p>Dr Fiona Williams Ordinary Member (Disserts) 2018-21 fiona.williams@chester.ac.uk</p> 



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Mr Fidel Budy
Postgraduate Representative 2018-19



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Dr Keith Halfacree Ord Mem
(co-opted) 2018-21



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Rural communities, migrations and social relations in turbulent times (1) Thursday
Session 3 (14:40-16:20) [Click for session details](#)

Rural communities, migrations and social relations in turbulent times (1)

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Sarah Neal (University of Sheffield, UK)

Anna Gawlewicz (University of Glasgow, UK)

Jesse Heley (Aberystwyth University, UK)

Rhys Dafydd Jones (Aberystwyth University, UK)

Chair(s) Jesse Heley (Aberystwyth University, UK)

Timetable Thursday 29 August 2019, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Session abstract We are currently witnessing a profound global change associated with austerity, accelerated population movement, and a well-reported rise of populist and nationalist sentiments. A reflection of this is a political 'hostile environment' as a set of (immigration) control measures embedded in everyday life (e.g. the Brexit vote and the Windrush scandal in the UK, Trump in the US, European refugee 'crisis'). Understanding the rural relationship to and within these politics is a pressing concern given the complexities and contradictions of this. While growing attention has been paid to diverse experiences of rural life and racism, the issues of rural strain, resilience and the social cohesion of rural communities in the current context of 'hostile environment' remains largely underexplored. In response, in this session we are interested in how rural populations in different countryside contexts are embedded in and resistant to 'hostile environment' politics and wider socio-political change. We invite empirical, theoretical and methodological contributions engaging with the challenges as well as opportunities that diverse rural communities (including migrant and minority ethnic population) face in turbulent times.

Possible topics might include:

- Difference, living together/conviviality in rural settings
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- Migrant/refugee/minority ethnic settlement experiences in the countryside
- The 'host' population responses to migrant/refugee/minority ethnic settlement in rural areas
- Rural community adaptation strategies to 'hostile environments'
- Nature, rural materialities and social dis/connections
- New methodological approaches to researching rural cohesion

Linked

Rural communities, migrations and social relations in turbulent times (2)

Sessions

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: ac2019@rgs.org

Staying or leaving: EU8 migrants lives in the English countryside and the importance of unmarked whiteness?

Simon Pemberton (Keele University, UK) Paulina Mackrell (Keele University, UK)

Whilst various studies have explored issues of racism, discrimination and processes of 'othering' in rural areas of England (e.g. Garland and Chakraborti, 2006; Burdsey, 2013) the predominant focus to date has predominantly been around minority ethnic communities who are 'visibly different' (Mackrell and Pemberton, 2018). Indeed, there has frequently been a conflation of rurality with notions of 'Englishness' and 'whiteness' (Burdsey, 2013). Thus little attention to date has been placed on the extent to which EU8 nationals – and who now reside in many rural areas across the UK – have also been subject to racial and discriminatory practices in rural areas. Consequently, this paper focuses on how the whiteness of EU8 nationals is being emphasised in the rural in the context of Brexit, and in order to facilitate invisibility, cultural fit and residential choice (Halej, 2014). In addition, the paper critiques the notion of 'unmarked whiteness' and the extent to which EU8 nationals perceive they are being 'normalised' according to their length of stay in the UK, their perceived 'investment' and their degree of 'authenticity' in earning their placement in the rural (see Hubbard, 2005; Bowden, 2012). By drawing together recent work on 'rural cosmopolitanism' (see Woods, 2018) and rural 'staying' (Stockdale et al., 2018), the paper therefore considers the implications of Brexit for EU8 nationals' everyday lives and experiences and decisions to leave or remain in the English countryside.

'Belonging in mienskip': Conditional forms of belonging for rejected asylum seeker families in a small rural Frisian village - Sara Miellet (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

Engaging with the scholarship on 'precarious rural cosmopolitanism' (Woods, 2018), this paper examines how municipal and civil society actors facilitate conditional forms and practices of belonging for refused asylum seeker families with minors in a small Dutch municipality in the Frisian countryside. In the Netherlands, refused asylum seeker families are accommodated in specially designated 'family locations', large-scale facilities with austere and restrictive conditions designed to promote voluntary return. This paper is based on fieldwork in a small rural municipality that is home to such a facility, and on fieldwork in the nearby regional capital Leeuwarden. At the time interviews were conducted, Leeuwarden was ending its year as the European Capital of Culture, in which it focused on promoting 'iepen mienskip': a Frisian term signifying 'open community' and 'encounters that identify with the 'Other' across the region. The study found that local actors, such as municipal officials and welfare organisations, invoked these regional narratives about belonging to the mienskip to explain their efforts to facilitate encounters between village residents and refused asylum seeker families. These actors struggle with the ambiguity of mienskip, which stands in stark contrast to the rigidity of the asylum regime and its many restrictions, such as the guideline that activities should foster temporary participation in the community without running 'the risk' of enabling attachment and integration into the community. The paper further explores how attempts by local actors to facilitate belonging are gendered, and how they blur the boundaries between refused and recognised refugees in the municipality.

Return mobilities and home-making in rural Portugal Amandine Desille (University of Lisbon, Portugal)

The northern rural region of Portugal has witnessed a great loss of population, due to out-migration, during the Estado Novo regime. Some villages have shrunk to a third of their size between 1960s and 2010s. In this context, the 2016 National Cohesion Plan proposes to invest on returnees to give a demographic boost to those traditional sending areas. And in fact, the last years, Portuguese returnees (from France most notably) have made their way to their home region, benefiting from fiscal advantages sometimes, and gaining new access to institutional support in general. Twenty years after the groundbreaking volume edited by Yves Charbit *le va-et-vient identitaire, migrants portugais et villages d'origine* (1998), which displayed the transnational lives of French-Portuguese, how do Portuguese returnees negotiate their presence in their villages of origin? How do they (re)build a home, back home? How does it affect the ones that haven't left? This conference will take place when fieldwork will end. It will then be the occasion to present some results to a larger audience.

Outsiders at Home: Hindu right-wing nationalism in rural Northeast India Saba Sharma (University of Cambridge, UK)

Contested ideas of belonging and citizenship have always been woven into the complex history of the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) in Assam, comprised of four mainly rural districts. The creation of the Bodoland Territorial Council in 2003, as well as the continuing movement for a separate state of Bodoland are points of conflict between indigenous Bodo and non-Bodo groups about who belongs to Bodoland. Ideas of citizenship are constantly being negotiated through elections, violence, as well as everyday interactions with the state.

However, in recent times, there has also been an upsurge of right-wing Hindu nationalism in India, particularly with the election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his right-wing party, the BJP (Bhartiya Janta Party). With the election of the BJP to the state legislature in Assam in 2016, the presence of Hindu right-wing organisations is growing in the region, as they attract more members and also grow in prominence at the national level.

This paper will argue that the growth of right-wing organisations in rural Bodoland, and the nature of their involvement in local community politics impacts (and possibly stands to alter) not just how notions of belonging are conceived, but also terms of exclusion. Ideas of exclusion and inclusion in the region have been shaped by colonial notions of citizenship that tied ethnicity to place, thus creating rigid 'insider' and 'outsider' categories of relatively more fluid practices of these concepts. I argue that the new national framework is attempting, through right-wing organisations, both to build on these existing concepts, as well as subvert them by re-framing the lines of inclusion and exclusion in the region, by conflating them along prevailing national norms.

Rural Cosmopolitanism, Refugees and Restricted Mobilities in Rural Towns: Experiences from Ireland and Wales Michael Woods (Aberystwyth University, UK) Taulant Guma (Edinburgh Napier University, UK) Sophie Yarker (The University of Manchester, UK)

The geographical distribution of refugees and asylum seekers has become a major political issue in Europe. Although the majority continue to be settled in urban areas, in several countries asylum seekers may be assigned to residential centres in rural communities whilst their applications are processed, whilst in Britain the settlement of Syrian refugees has broken with the policy of the previous 25 years by dispersing refugees across the country, including into rural districts. This paper examines case studies of two rural towns in Ireland and Wales that have received asylum seekers or refugees. Ballyhaunis, Ireland, has hosted a direct provision centre for asylum seekers since 2001, with around 200 asylum seekers in residence at any time, as well as a short-term refugee orientation centre. Aberystwyth, Wales, received Syrian refugees under the first wave of the UK government's programme, following grassroots lobbying, and has subsequently welcomed refugee Syrian families under an innovative community sponsorship scheme. The paper compares the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees in the two localities as well as the response of local civil society groups. It draws on the concept of 'rural cosmopolitanism' to explore how local engagements with refugees and asylum seekers draw on ideas of sense of place and international connections and to examine how refugees and asylum seekers negotiate formal and informal restrictions on their mobility and assess how their capacities are restricted or enabled by the small town location.

Rural communities, migrations and social relations in turbulent times (2) Thursday Session 4 (16:50-18:30)
[Click for session details](#)



Rural communities, migrations and social relations in turbulent times (2)

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Sarah Neal (University of Sheffield, UK)

Anna Gawlewicz (University of Glasgow, UK)

Jesse Heley (Aberystwyth University, UK)

Rhys Dafydd Jones (Aberystwyth University, UK)

Chair(s) Anna Gawlewicz (University of Glasgow, UK)

Timetable Thursday 29 August 2019, Session 4 (16:50 - 18:30)

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Linked

Rural communities, migrations and social relations in turbulent times (1)

Sessions

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'Food left rotting in the field': The Impact of Brexit on Migrant Agricultural Workers, Food Production and Rural Communities
Richard Yarwood (University of Plymouth, UK) Leonie Boland (University of Plymouth, UK)

Recent surveys (NFU 2017, G4W 2017) have identified a significant decline in the numbers of migrant workers in the UK (c.20%), leading to fears of chronic shortage of farm labourers and dramatic headlines about 'crops rotting in the fields'. The shortfall has been attributed to uncertainties arising over the status of migrant labourers following Brexit as well as an increase in hate crimes. Yet, despite this speculation, there no recent research has directly engaged with workers themselves. Within the context of an impending Brexit, our study examined how the changing political and policy situation is affecting the lives and employment of migrant workers. Drawing on interviews with Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia and Lithuania workers, this paper seeks to: i. examine how Brexit has impacted on the lives and employment of migrant workers; ii. chart their migratory journeys and employment experiences to understand the extent to which migrant labourers have and exercise choice about where they work in the future; iii. examine feelings of inclusion and exclusion in rural communities to consider how this influences their future decision to work in the UK; iv. consider how Brexit will affect the supply of migrant labourers and, in turn, its impact on farming and rural communities; and, v. give voice to migrant workers in policy debates and rural communities. Refugee access to education and employment in West Wales and the Valleys

Iona Hannagan Lewis (University of South Wales / Welsh Refugee Council, UK)

This paper analyses the experiences of refugees relocated across five case study areas in Wales. While diverse in their economies, histories and industries, the areas are united in that they are all outside the established spaces of asylum seeker dispersal. The expansion of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement scheme (VPRS) in 2015 drew unprecedented levels of response, with all 22 Local Authorities in Wales pledging to resettle refugees. The scale of this response made for heartening news, yet resettling refugees in these areas brought additional challenges in integration. Three years on from the initial expansion of the scheme,

beneficiaries of VPRS have struggled to secure employment, training, and access to language learning in some of Wales' most economically deprived localities. Building on Ager and Strang's conceptualisation of education and employment as both indicator of and means to successful integration, this paper shows the impact of (lack of) access to these indicator-means for resettled refugees, and explores the barriers confronting the refugee subject as they seek to rebuild their lives in these rural and postindustrial communities. Nevertheless, VPRS has helped spark a movement of grassroots integration initiatives, often in communities with little prior experience of integrating a migrant population. Thus, in addition to presenting the barriers, this paper also records individual and community agency in improving access to education and employment. Finally, it recommends strategies by which government and community can further improve access to these crucial indicator-means in Wales.

A walk on the Jordan Trail: reconfiguring rural identities Olivia Mason (Newcastle University, UK)

Jordan is often called a one city country, with just under half of the population living in its capital Amman. This is a population which has risen over 400% in the past 15 years, partly in response to the 1.4 million refugees which are estimated to be living in Jordan, many of whom have settled in Amman. This urban/rural divide is further exacerbated by the colonial history of Jordan. Jordan was a country created by the British in 1948 after the breakdown of the Ottoman Empire (Massad, 2001). Under the Ottoman rule and British mandate period, land use laws altered the way in which rural communities were able to connect with and use the land (Massad, 2001). Legacies which extend to the current day.

This paper explores a new long distance walking trail in Jordan, the Jordan Trail, to explore questions of rural cohesion, identity formation, and interaction. The Jordan Trail is heralded as a nation-building project to connect Jordanians to their land and enable encounters between rural and urban communities. It aims to re-capture rural identities, knowledges and practices which have been excluded within notions of Jordanian identity that have been centred on the urban and modern. The Jordan Trail creates moments of everyday encounters, knowledge exchange, and interactions that also alter what it means to be Jordanian. Rural identities become entangled with relationships between land, the nation-state, colonialism, and migration.

Amazonian peasants under a new austerity regime: Migration and livelihood dynamics Thiago Hector Kanashiro Uehara (Imperial College London, UK) Clive Potter (Imperial College London, UK)

Since 2013, particularly after the impeachment of Brazil's President, Dilma Roussef, the country's peasants have experienced further marginalisation. Drawing on ethnography, self-reported well-being and livelihood analysis of four communities in Careiro da Várzea (Amazonas), this presentation shows how they have coped with the end of the Zero Hunger Food Acquisition Programme, which between 2012 and 2016 was their exclusive cost-effective marketing channel. Dynamics of migration and social reproduction were affected by this new wave of austerity. Firstly, social security became the main income source. This includes cash-transfers (Bolsa Família), old-age pensions (aposentadoria rural), and unemployment benefits for fishers (seguro-defeso). This also implies less autonomy for the peasants. Secondly, since life expectancy in Careiro da Várzea is relatively low, the older people live off old-age pensions and subsistence farming. The middle-aged cohorts, mostly uneducated, dream of migrating to Manaus, the state capital. But since they cannot afford to do so, they continue to farm in the hope of providing better prospects for their children. The young cohorts attend very low-quality schools. Most of them wish to continue studying, engage in non-farming activities, and migrate. Then, it becomes evident that the Food Acquisition Programme did not leave a legacy of prosperity for these rather freedomless Amazonian peasants. And the prospects are not promising. Under Bolsonaro's presidency, further deprivation are expected (such as the retrenchment of non-contributory rural pensions and of unemployment benefits), which would exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and further constrain rural livelihoods.

Rural communities, rural migrations, and post-Brexit social relations Sarah Neal (University of Sheffield, UK) Anna Gawlewicz (University of Glasgow, UK) Jesse Heley (Aberystwyth University, UK) Rhys Dafydd Jones (Aberystwyth University, UK)

Since 2004 and 2007, EU migration to rural areas has meant that rural communities have newly experienced migration settlement and increased ethnic diversity. While there has been some high profile media attention on the impact of Brexit for farmers and the implications of a decline in migrant labour for food production industries, how everyday rural social life and the social cohesion of rural communities may be affected remains largely underexplored. This paper engages with representatives of voluntary and public sector organisations to discuss social practices and interactions in the rural areas of North Yorkshire (England), Fife (Scotland) and Carmarthenshire (Wales) in the context of Brexit. It investigates negotiations created by a variety of social (individual, resident, neighbour, work, leisure, community) relationships and interdependencies in order better to understand how everyday rural life and rural populations are adapting to the post-Brexit vote circumstances. The study explores policy approaches to both the needs of diverse rural communities and the challenges of convivial 'living together'. In doing so it aims to fill a pressing gap in the understandings and anticipations of the ways in which Brexit affects cohesion in rural places.



Albert Hall near RGS-IBH HQ (BAS 2017)

Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies ‘in’, ‘of’ and ‘for’ the Anthropocene (1): Changing meatscapes - Friday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) [Click for session details](#)

Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies ‘in’, ‘of’ and ‘for’ the Anthropocene (1): Changing meatscapes

Affiliation Food Geographies Working Group
Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)
Ben Coles (University of Leicester, UK)
David Evans (University of Bristol, UK)

Chair(s) Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)
Ben Coles (University of Leicester, UK)
David Evans (University of Bristol, UK)

Timetable Friday 30 August 2019, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Session abstract The “Anthropocene” is an important and much debated concept in physical and environmental geography that has also attracted considerable attention in human geography in recent years (Castree, 2017). At its core it reflects not just how humans impact on the non-human world but also how human activities fold into earth-surface systems (ibid). Given this burgeoning disciplinary interest in the Anthropocene, there is a surprising lack of critical engagement with the concept in food and rural geography, despite some exceptions (e.g. Beacham, 2018; Sexton, 2018). This is surprising for a number of reasons, not least given the ways in which food and farming are currently implicated in changes to the earth’s biophysical and chemical processes – changes that will likely have significant impacts on not just the availability of food, but on how the relationships between agriculture, food practices and food can be understood. Conceptual risks of conflating the Anthropocene with climate change notwithstanding, agri-food production and consumption is a significant contributor to climate change. The IPCC (2018) report warns that we have roughly 12 years to transform how we live if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change impacts, which includes changes to how we grow, process and eat food. Recent food system and environmental threshold studies call for radical change too, especially to meat consumption, as well as reductions in food loss and waste (see Springmann et al., 2018). We are also seeing increased media coverage which focuses on the negative impacts of livestock farming on the Earth’s ecological systems, the rise of veganism, and even the possibility of introducing a meat tax, all placed within wider contexts of increased food poverty, austerity politics and social-ecological justice at the planetary scale.

We are, it would seem, ‘living with’ significant food and farming-related ‘environmental troubles’, and Science warns that if current trends are left unchecked these troubles will take us beyond ‘planetary boundaries’, which in turn raises existential questions about the future of the Earth’s bio-physical systems and humanities position within them. Such stark and apocalyptic warnings require urgent critical social science analysis to complement the science by offering, for example, a better understanding of perceptions, behaviours and social practices associated with everyday living and food consumption; strategies to foster more-than-human ethics of care and responsibility; to identify ‘hopeful’ food geographies (cf. Head, 2018), and generative political frameworks to enable sustainable and equitable transitions.

This session thus seeks papers that examine food geographies ‘in’, ‘of’ and ‘for’ the Anthropocene. We welcome papers from food geographers, rural geographers and from across the wider geography discipline that examine, probe, contest, promote and/or energise us to think differently about food systems and more-than-human interactions with the world.

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- Ethics/moralities in/for the Anthropocene
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- Food and the Anthropocene as Capitalocene
- Post-carbon food geographies in rural and urban space
- Geographies of livestock production, meat and meat alternatives in/for Anthropocene
- Dietary change and the geographies of new food in/for the Anthropocene
- Food, consumer cultures and the Anthropocene
- Alternative food networks and diverse food economies
- Metrics, measurements and food system science in the Anthropocene
- Strategies, methodologies and interventions that offer ‘hopeful’ perspectives/geographies

Linked Sessions Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies ‘in’, ‘of’ and ‘for’ the Anthropocene (2): Diets, embodiment and food practices
Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies ‘in’, ‘of’ and ‘for’ the Anthropocene (3): Crisis and novelty

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Addressing troubled meatscapes Alison Caffyn (Cardiff University, UK)

As intensive livestock farming continues to expand across the UK more communities are experiencing local industrial 'meatscapes'. Despite the rise in vegetarian and vegan eating, the increase in meat consumption (especially chicken) is also set to continue, at least in the short term. Indeed Elder (2019) recently made the suggestion that the Anthropocene might be characterised in the future by a layer of chicken bones in the fossil record; prompted by Bennett et al.'s 2018 discussion of how the modern broiler chicken could be considered a morphotype, symbolising the unprecedented human reconfiguration of the Earth's biosphere.

Poultry production in the UK is impacting at a landscape and catchment scale on a number of the 'planetary boundaries' identified by Rockström et al., (2009), including freshwater systems, nitrates and phosphate levels, atmospheric aerosols, land use change and biodiversity loss. Increasingly scientific methods and models are being applied to site selection, drainage and manure management, odour and air pollution impacts. This paper aims to 'reintroduce the political' (Lovbrand et al., 2015) to the debate with an analysis of how local authorities and environmental bodies are struggling to respond to not only the environmental impacts but also the growing societal concern and contestation generated by continuing intensive agriculture developments.

What's the beef?: the problematisation of meat eating and sustainable diets

Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK) Julie Urquhart (University of Gloucestershire, UK) John Fellenor (University of Bath, UK) Julie Barnett (University of Bath, UK) Clive Potter (Imperial College London, UK) Alejandro Luna (Imperial College London)

This paper examines the recent debate about meat eating and sustainable diets. More specifically, we consider meat eating as a 'hot topic' debated in public discourse in response to the publication of the EAT-Lancet Commission (2019) 'Food in the Anthropocene' report. This report called for a radical shift and reduction in the amount of meat, particularly red meat, we consume as a society to reverse negative food system impacts on the planet. The report sparked significant public debate. Using Twitter data and analysis of newspaper articles, we analyse the report and the response its recommendations generated. As well as examining this specific moment of meat eating problematisation, we consider also strategies of responsibilisation proposed to address the problem, including counter-strategies that contest the science behind the publication, differentiating, for example, between different systems of meat production or challenging the nutritional logic of reduced meat diets. The 'sustainable diets' concept (Mason and Lang, 2017) raises important questions regarding the ethics of food production consumption, including entanglements with humans and nonhumans and the social and political implications of transitioning to food choices where we eat less meat and more plant-based alternatives. The case study raises wider questions about planetary boundaries and ethics and accountability in agri-food governance. This includes consideration of the way food politics is evolving in the public sphere, particularly the role of social media as an arena of interaction that generates debate and in some cases leads to direct confrontation between ethical values, social norms and sustainability choices

Urban food governance and the de-animalisation of the food system Carol Morris (University of Nottingham, UK) Minna Kaljonen (Finnish Environment Institute, Finland) Eleanor Hadley-Kershaw (University of Nottingham, UK)

This paper responds to one dimension of the session's interest in food and the Anthropocene: the animalisation of the food system i.e. the over-production and consumption of food from animals. This has been identified as a significant impediment to global food system sustainability with the greenhouse gas emissions from livestock production highlighted as a major contributor to climate change. An increasingly diverse set of stakeholders argue that a more sustainable food system will need to significantly reduce the production and consumption of food from animals and place greater emphasis instead on plant sourced foods, hence 'deanimalisation'. However, resistance represents a challenge for research, governance and practice. Research into (de)animalisation is emergent with analysis mostly undertaken at global and national scales neglecting other spaces of action including in particular the urban scale. Urban food governance represents another developing area of investigation which recognises that feeding the city is one of the 'quintessential' challenges of the 21st century. In response, urban governments across the globe have begun to develop a range of food plans, policies and strategies that help "city governments integrate a full spectrum of urban food system issues within a single policy framework" (Mansfield and Mendes 2013: 37). Systematic research attention has yet to be given to how food governance at the urban scale is addressing the challenge of (de)animalisation. This paper reports on a British Academy funded research project that has been undertaking preliminary investigation into this relationship. It will offer initial insights from the project produced through a literature review, document analysis of urban scale food provisioning initiatives and interviews with urban food governance stakeholders in both UK and Finland, countries with contrasting approaches to the issue of interest.

Bioengineering, telecoupling, and alternative meat and dairy: Agricultural land use futures in the Anthropocene Lenore Newman (University of the Fraser Valley, Canada) Lisa Powell (University of the Fraser Valley, Canada)

The global environmental impact of rising consumption of animal products is increasingly identified as presenting new challenges to sustainable land use. One alternative to is the production of animal products in-vitro, a set of technologies often referred to as cellular agriculture, or in the case of animal flesh, "clean meat". Optimism as to the benefits of these technologies is widespread;

Jönsson (2016), for example, highlights that by producing meat outside of animal bodies, food will be more environmentally friendly, and kinder to animals. Clean meat is one emerging vision for a contested future of food production in the Anthropocene.

Work on the land-use implications of clean meat is still limited, but such technologies fit within a larger narrative of land sparing, in which high-yield farming allows the protection of wild habitats and the return of fallow land to ecological uses. In this presentation we question the land-sparing capacity of clean meat through a spatial justice lens. Though clean meat and dairy could offer significant ecological benefits, these could be countered by intensification of agricultural activity in equatorial regions for the production of feedstocks for cellular agriculture. Using the concept of telecoupling, an umbrella concept that refers to socioeconomic and environmental interactions over distances, and drawing on work we are conducting in the dairy sector, we call for further study into the policy landscape needed to prevent unequal distribution of the costs and benefits of alternatives to animal products.



Hopeful Governance for Good Rural Food Economies and Environments Friday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) [Click for session details](#)

Hopeful Governance for Good Rural Food Economies and Environments Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group Food Geographies Working Group Convenor(s) Eifiona Thomas Lane (Prifysgol Bangor University, UK) Lois Mansfield (University of Cumbria, UK) Rebecca Jones (Prifysgol Bangor University, UK) Chair(s) Eifiona Thomas Lane (Prifysgol Bangor University, UK) Timetable Friday 30 August 2019, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Session Much academic and activists', energies and effort is focussed towards the discussion of changing local food abstract economies and developing good food opportunities whether through community enterprise or business development and interventions / projects. However, recent research emphasis has been predominantly on the more urbanised food economy. Currently, given uncertain futures, alternative visions for the functions of many rural spaces are under discussion, none of which plot-out a clear route-map towards sustainable secure food access nor the future maintenance of certainty of rural livelihoods.

This session will address questions of rural production and explores questions about new food and drink supply chain possibilities. This will include research on good and hopeful governance in changing times as well as empirical studies of case studies of best practice from both upland and more productive agri-food / agri-diversification and community developments e.g. Charters, Good Food projects, Food Councils and Food Hubs from within rural spaces to overcome their geographical challenges. Learning for building sustainable communities from across projects and networks and a range of scales and global contexts is a key aim of this action research focussed session. Practitioner and policy based presentations and new researchers are especially welcomed into a working group that aims to be as inclusive and interdisciplinary as possible.

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Orange, banana and guava trees make things happen: counter-force to intensive global food systems and emancipatory foodscapes in Rio de Janeiro's rural hinterland Felipe da Silva Machado (University of Plymouth, UK)

Urban centres and their surrounding rural hinterlands are given prominence in recent rural research. New and emancipatory foodscapes emerge in rural-urban space where alliances are forged between increasingly better-informed consumers and local farmers who offer quality-food products through alternative distribution networks and so act as an environmental and social counter-force to intensive global food systems (Goodman et al., 2011; Marsden and Morely, 2014; Woods, 2011). This paper provides additional insight into a small-scale farming sector in the peripheral countryside of Rio de Janeiro, demonstrating how farmers adapt their agricultural systems in order to maintain the long-term supply of food and public goods.

The paper highlights patterns of fruit farming and its quality within the contradictory relationship between urban, industrial and global forces on the viability of emancipatory foodscapes on the edges of a metropolitan region in Brazil. Land tenure and social formation are results of past agrarian history and influence the course of converting farmland into other uses as well as resistance or dynamic adaptation in rural-urban interaction. Farmers have long played a significant role in shaping rural landscapes, and their necessarily embodied practices and experimental knowledges create a particular relationship between themselves and the land. Once a fruit tree is planted, the land is in agricultural use. Orange, banana and guava trees make things happen – they reshape social relations and transform the rural economy in the hinterland of Rio de Janeiro.

Food as cultural capital in Rural Development: a comparative study between Japanese and British upland agriculture Lois Mansfield (University of Cumbria, UK)

With the change in UK government policy to financially support public goods rather than production, farm businesses will once again need to explore a range of alternative mechanisms to ensure they are resilient enough to continue. In preparation for this, the Ministry responsible for food (DEFRA) is currently focused on the testing and trialling of agri-environment initiatives. Farms,

nevertheless have much more to offer in terms of social and cultural capital which not only provide business continuity but underpin the production of natural capital and other ecosystem services so valued by society.

This paper reports on some of the findings of a Churchill Fellowship in Japan which explored how their Ministries support upland farm businesses in the Yoshina-Kumano National Park, SW Honshu, through rural development in terms of food as an aspect of cultural capital. A comparative critical analysis between schemes in the UK and Japan was then performed to explore new ways of improving food farm diversification in upland farming areas.

Innovation for and by whom?: the governance of agroecological innovations Chris Maughan (Coventry University, UK)

The agroecology movement posits a radical challenge to conventional agri-food governance. Among other things, advocates of agroecology have called for the re-situation of food production and agri-food decision-making at the local level (Altieri 2009; Pimbert 2015; Snipstal 2015). Until recently, these claims have been made from the side-lines, marking out a powerful, but extreme, oppositional frontier. In recent years, however, this dynamic has shifted; agroecology is increasingly being adopted as the organising principle for sustainable food governance in some of the most elevated policy arenas in the world, from the regional and national level (such as France and the UK (Guillaume 2018; McCarthy et al. 2018)) to the international, such as the FAO and the EU (EC 2018; FAO 2018a).

On the surface, such policy processes appear to align with the core tenets of agroecology, such as local governance, 'food sovereignty', and participatory research and development processes. Yet, beneath the surface there are signs that such policy spaces are also vulnerable to co-option by mainstream interests, particularly where ideas of 'innovation' and technology transfer are in operation.

Using a combination of interviews (with farmers, farmers' representatives, researchers, and government officials), field observations, and analysis of a recent FAO consultation on agroecological innovation (FAO 2018b), this article puts critical pressure on some of the claims of these high-level processes regarding the governance of agroecological innovations. Building on grassroots innovation theory (Smith et al. 2014; Hermans et al. 2016), this paper asks the following key questions: are these policy processes capable of including and benefitting the communities at the front line of the struggle for local and sustainable food? If so, what qualifications need to be put on key terms like 'innovation' and 'local governance' to ensure the principles of agroecology are maintained and the benefits to rural areas maximised.

An incomplete alternative food system: The 'black-face spoonbill brand' initiated by the National Park Headquarter in Taiwan De-Jung Chen (National Cheng-Kung University, Taiwan) Wei-Ju Huang (National Cheng-Kung University, Taiwan)

'Alternative food networks (AFNs)' is an embracing term to cover the existing networks of producers, customers and other actors that embody alternatives to standardize and industrial mode of food supply (Murdoch et al., 2000). Here 'alternatives' may refer to organic farming, direct selling, and/or an ethical way of producing that connects to certain values, like fairness, animal welfare, and environmental friendly (Renting et al., 2003). Now AFNs have been widespread built for agro-product promotion and rural development, not only by the producers but also by the governments.

The brand 'black-face spoonbill' (黑琵牌), which emphasizes the value of environment friendliness in fish farming, was initiated by Tai-Jiang National Park (TJNK) Headquarter of Taiwan. TJNK Headquarter created the brand for the surrounding fishing farmers; as return, the fish farmers were requested to so shallow fish farming, which is more environment friendly from TJNK Headquarters' perspective. Although the plan of black-face spoonbill brand eventually failed, it is a negative example to show the complexity of the governance on AFNs. By reflecting on the case of black-face spoonbill brand, this article aims to explore the possible consequences of the governance on AFNs and further to examine the influential factors of AFNs building. Text analysis (in related reports) and qualitative interview (with the stakeholders in this project) are the main methods.

Marketing the Markets – supporting re-localisation of rural food economy thru facilitation of local produce markets Rebecca Jones (Prifysgol Bangor University, UK) Eifiona Thomas Lane (Prifysgol Bangor University, UK) Luke Prosser (Prifysgol Bangor University, UK)

Local produce markets are spaces of community interaction, embodied food experiences and most vitally, selling and sharing spaces. Historically, rural markets faded away, while food and drink supply chains became longer. Produce markets are currently experiencing new waves of customer interest as they offer benefits to slower rural tourism and ensure that food grown locally, can be purchased locally. However, markets associations, often social enterprises by their key functions, are constantly challenged by administrative loads for their organisation and successful marketing. Stallholders in a small business struggle to volunteer time to organise such key activities, including recruiting new entrants, which are especially important in rural areas where both potential stallholders and customers are dispersed.

This paper discusses findings from action research collaboration, focusing on facilitation of local produce markets in rural towns across North Wales. Evidence is presented from a survey of market stallholders and interviews with stakeholders involved in supporting and developing these markets. Within the context of hopeful rural governance, it is suggested that a locally customised interpretation of the national campaign of 'Love your Market' will grow rural capacity and thus resilience of local food networks through supporting these important community spaces.

Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene (2): Diets, embodiment and food practices - Friday Session 2 (11:10-12:50) [Click for session details](#)

Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene (2): Diets, embodiment and food practices

Affiliation Food Geographies Working Group Rural Geography Research Group Convenor(s) Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK) Ben Coles (University of Leicester, UK) David Evans (University of Bristol, UK) Chair(s) Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK) Ben Coles (University of Leicester, UK) David Evans (University of Bristol, UK) **Timetable** Friday 30 August 2019, Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)

Session abstract The “Anthropocene” is an important and much debated concept in physical and environmental geography that has also attracted considerable attention in human geography in recent years (Castree, 2017). At its core it reflects not just how humans impact on the non-human world but also how human activities fold into earth-surface systems (ibid). Given this burgeoning disciplinary interest in the Anthropocene, there is a surprising lack of critical engagement with the concept in food and rural geography, despite some exceptions (e.g. Beacham, 2018; Sexton, 2018). This is surprising for a number of reasons, not least given the ways in which food and farming are currently implicated in changes to the earth’s biophysical and chemical processes – changes that will likely have significant impacts on not just the availability of food, but on how the relationships between agriculture, food practices and food can be understood. Conceptual risks of conflating the Anthropocene with climate change notwithstanding, agri-food production and consumption is a significant contributor to climate change. The IPCC (2018) report warns that we have roughly 12 years to transform how we live if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change impacts, which includes changes to how we grow, process and eat food. Recent food system and environmental threshold studies call for radical change too, especially to meat consumption, as well as reductions in food loss and waste (see Springmann et al., 2018). We are also seeing increased media coverage which focuses on the negative impacts of livestock farming on the Earth’s ecological systems, the rise of veganism, and even the possibility of introducing a meat tax, all placed within wider contexts of increased food poverty, austerity politics and social-ecological justice at the planetary scale.

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Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene (2): Diets, embodiment and food practices

- Metrics, measurements and food system science in the Anthropocene
- Strategies, methodologies and interventions that offer ‘hopeful’ perspectives/geographies

Linked Sessions Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies ‘in’, ‘of’ and ‘for’ the Anthropocene (1): Changing meatscapes
Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies ‘in’, ‘of’ and ‘for’ the Anthropocene (3): Crisis and novelty
Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies ‘in’, ‘of’ and ‘for’ the Anthropocene (4): More-than-human relations

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‘New veganism’, dietary change, and the hopeful sociometabolism(s) of diverse Anthropocene food geographies

Jonathan Beacham (Lancaster University, UK)

The Anthropocene, as the geological age of ‘the human’, marks a significant diagnostic juncture in considering humanity’s place both on and within the Earth’s biosphere. Though debate continues of where (understood both spatially and temporally) to place the ‘golden spike’ marking the transition to the Anthropocene, it is evident that there are few domains of human existence which have so profoundly shaped relationships with the Earth as food and agriculture. From the Neolithic Revolution to the invention of the Haber-Bosch process and beyond, shifts in patterns of food and agriculture have forever had planetary implications. Yet today there is a growing awareness of the need to address, at a variety of levels, the negative impacts of these implications, which is reflected in increasingly fractured and diverse food geographies of the Anthropocene. In this paper, I bring together the idea of the Anthropocene as operating through a certain ‘sociometabolism’ with geographical and sociological perspectives which have pointed to recent dietary change and experimentation, focusing particularly on ‘new veganism’. I explore this phenomenon in suggesting that a synthetic and holistic analysis of these important and notable recent dietary change(s) ought not to focus purely at the level of the ‘ethical’ but must simultaneously recognise the planetary consequences of the ways in which energy comes to be differently cycled through the biosphere. As a final provocation, this paper asks if we are living through a nascent sociometabolic regime for the Anthropocene – one undergirded by a spirit of hopeful and inquisitive experimentation with food.

Post-milk/post-politics? The hopes and troubles of plant-based milks Nathan Clay (University of Oxford, UK)

Alexandra Sexton (University of Oxford, UK) BUBBA

In Europe and North America, milk has long been exalted as “nature’s perfect food” (DuPuis 2002). The stories told by corporations, public health bodies, lobby groups and cultural tropes have persistently upheld milk as the perfect source of good health, of wholesomeness and naturalness, and of idyllic agrarian imaginaries. Yet alongside these stories, concerns over the health and animal welfare impacts of milk production and consumption have troubled its perfect image. More recently, under the Anthropocene diagnosis, milk has also become a prominent focus of environmental concern.

In response to these anxieties, production of plant-based milks has rapidly grown with sustainable, ethical and healthy alternatives. In this paper we critically examine how this emerging sector has positioned its products as the better milk in, of and for the Anthropocene. We do this through a reading of the promotional narratives of three prominent plant-based milk companies, focusing in particular on how they are calling citizenconsumers to action in different ways through new modes of caring for human health and the environment. We show that such notions of care have in varying degrees promoted a sense of radicalness through which consumers are responsabilised to become the ‘post-milk generation’ by switching from dairy to plants. Yet we suggest that this post-milk vision engenders a ‘palatable’ radicalness similar to other forms of green consumerism. Consumers are encouraged to care enough to switch, but ultimately to keep being milk consumers. This raises doubts as to whether the post-political nature of plant-based milks will enable more hopeful and just food futures for the Anthropocene.



promises of providing more

Re-embodiment food flavour for the Anthropocene: from source to senses Duika L. Burges-Watson (Newcastle University, UK) Chris Cooper (Newcastle University, UK)

‘Big food’ has been implicated in contributing to global environmental change and non-communicable disease, at the same time, industry claims consumer desires ‘drive’ the market for the foods it produces. Drawing on biosocial health geographies (Prior et al, 2018) to broaden methods in visceral geography (Hayes-Conroy, 2017), in this paper we argue that contemporary food systems may contribute to a bland and homogenous food experience, diminishing pleasure and well-being, through a lessening in the richness and diversity of food flavours. Noting Goodman’s (2016) concern that visceral geography may be too ‘body centric’, we consider how flavour issues play out in how food comes to be ‘vital material’ in the first place. In doing so we draw attention to ‘food play’ as an ambulatory research methodology for more-than-food geographers. Commensal food play facilitates exploration of biosocial explanations for visceral difference in the experience of flavour. Hands on food play will be included in the session to exemplify the diversity and individuality of flavour experience.

Urban gardening practices in the City of Volos. Cultural deposits and environmental ethics in urban everyday life Thalia Marou (University of Thessaly, Greece)

The last decade, the urban gardening practice has been popular in Greek cities. The interest for the environmental impact of their food, their health and the quality of urban space, led city dwellers to connect with the soil.

In Volos, a medium scale Greek city, urban home food gardening was always present, mainly in the suburbs with working class households. During recent years, a wider spread of the practice at social and spatial level is observed, while at the same time, alternative distribution networks for fresh produce and vegetables are thriving in the city. Given the new food ethics in the current context of the Anthropocene, organic, local food and urban gardening become more and more recognized and they encounter the cultural deposits in the urban home gardens of Volos. The research investigates the motivations leading a large percentage of Volos city dwellers to the urban home food gardening and simultaneously tries to perceive how it is associated with individual identity and everyday life.

Using in depth interviews, the research gets data for the impact of early experiences for urban home gardening, the embodiment of contemporary environmental concerns through gardening and care for the family’s organic fresh food.

The involvement of urban home gardening in the shaping of everyday life is also outlined differently, for women, as a delight of the housekeeping, and for men, as an escape of the urban routine.

Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene (3): Crisis and novelty Friday Session 3 (14:40-16:20) [Click for session details](#)

Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene (3): Crisis and novelty

Affiliation Food Geographies Working Group Rural Geography Research Group Convenor(s) Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK) Ben Coles (University of Leicester, UK) David Evans (University of Bristol, UK) Chair(s) Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK) Ben Coles (University of Leicester, UK) David Evans (University of Bristol, UK) **Timetable** Friday 30 August 2019, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

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Linked [Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene \(1\): Changing meatscapes](#)

Sessions Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene (2): Diets, embodiment and food practices
 Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene (4): More-than-human relations

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The beast inside: food, illness and invasive life – Jonathan Everts (University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)

Crutzen's and Stoermer's (2000) original intuition that we are living on a planet where increasingly the key force of change is that of humankind has been echoing throughout human geography for some time (eg Ehlers 2008, Castree 2014). As I have argued elsewhere together with Karl Benediktsson (Everts & Benediktsson 2015), we are also living on a planet where biogeographical boundaries are increasingly blurred to the extent that traditional concepts of realms and continental divides are becoming less and less relevant. For those still maintaining that these boundaries exist, life itself appears increasingly invasive (coming from elsewhere, taking up space at the expense of other living beings). Modern concepts of territories and territorial belongings turn a blind eye to the ever shifting geographies of life and have grave difficulties in understanding short- and long-term changes. However, the modern concept of a territorially divided planet still has much purchase in natural science and politics. It is among other things responsible for attention being channelled onto particular "problems" and just as much for the silencing of other issues. In this paper, I focus on food borne illness and invasive life, especially such as worms, viruses, and bacteria; many of them have been moved out of focus as "old", "traditional" or "elsewhere" issues although they are of continuing, novel or increasing importance.

Exploring unusual food practices in ecological living experiments in Southern Europe: speculations for more-than-human ethics in the Anthropocene Elisa Schramm (University of Oxford, UK)

This paper is concerned with highlighting glimpses of hopeful and unusual food related practices, that are currently occurring in ecological living experiments in Southern France and Catalonia by reading for difference (Gibson-Graham 2006)/ by recovering the minor (Deleuze and Guattari 1987). These may serve as inspiration for more-than-human ethics around food in the Anthropocene by challenging Cartesian divisions of modernity and acknowledging our interdependencies with other life forms. The analysis of this paper, drawn from ethnographic fieldwork, will be focused around three non-humans and the humbler more-than-human ethics they have enabled: the cactus, the solar oven and a polluted river. Firstly, cultivating and eating cactus in Southern France occurred as a way of saving water and energy, and signaled an ethics of awareness of more-than-human dependencies and limitations and radical contentment as an ongoing practice. Secondly, solar ovens, most typically used for bread-baking, spelled out the need for slowing down food temporalities and of actively connecting with and developing a gratitude for the non-reciprocal gift of the sun (Bataille 1981). Finally, one community, in a more post-apocalyptic vein, settled in the abandoned ruins of a textile factory next to a polluted river, rendering agricultural production quasi-impossible. Despite this, an ethic that recognized both our deep vulnerability on earthly processes and simultaneously allowed for hopeful flourishing amongst capitalist ruins (Tsing 2015) was adopted as various experiments around the river and its water quality were conducted, including growing salads and broccoli on its banks and using small fish as bio-indicators.

Novel crops for Wales: diverse diets and invasive species David Skydmore (Lovell Arboretum, UK)

As economic and climatic conditions change, along with varying food fashions, crops that have not had a significant history of cultivation in Wales are being evaluated and grown. As well as food crops these include industrial product (including fibre), pharmaceutical, biomass-energy crops and ornamental species. The area of the cultivation of these novel crops is increasing in Wales. The economic activities of the Anthropocene have promoted the global exchange and introduction of crops from other geographical regions. These plant introductions are causing changes to indigenous ecosystems through the addition of invasive species, hybridisation with wild flora and predominance of monocultures. The effects of the Anthropocene, through these introductions, will be seen in the pollen records and the loss of habitats. The changes in food geography and diets, enabled by the choice of these crops, will be considered through their impact on farming practice and product marketing. Examples of food crops and their geographical origins will be used to demonstrate the benefits and the deleterious effects of these developments. The status of awareness, amongst importers, growers and environmental strategists, of the potential advantages and disadvantages of novel crops will be examined. The horticultural sector will be used as an example. Methods for safeguarding against negative environmental impacts will be describe. These methods will be placed in the context of the impact of agriculture in the Anthropocene, through changing crop choice, in order to promote a wider discussion by growers and researchers.

Food Geographies of Trouble in the Anthropocene: A Growing Nutritional and Ecological Crisis in Rural Western Awadh, Uttar Pradesh, India Sudha Nagavarapu (Sangtin) Richa Kumar (Indian Institute of Technology, India) Surbala Vaish (Sangtin) Richa Singh (Sangtin)

Tracing the changing food geography of western Awadh, Uttar Pradesh, in the upper Gangetic plains of northern India, from the 1960s to the present, we argue that a physical transformation of the land, along with commodification of specific agrarian resources has reshaped diets and contributed to a growing nutritional and ecological crisis. Despite an overall increase in 'productivity' as measured through simplistic yield per acre calculations, the physical remaking of the land from an undulating, diverse, more-than-human



ecosystem, to a fully irrigated, flat landscape, has led to a drastic decline in food diversity. Government programmes for soil conservation, irrigation and levelling which began in the 1960s, and the influx of 'productive' Punjabi farmers into the region in the 1980s, drove the transformation of cropping patterns from a diversity of oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals (including millets) to monocultures of rice, wheat and sugarcane. Land reforms and land consolidation, which enclosed the commons, reduced grazing lands and the availability of fruits, mushrooms, greens, fish and wild meat. Social positioning of uncultivated foods as less desirable 'foods of the poor' further contributed to their demise. Falling ground water levels, overuse of chemical inputs and reduced soil carbon content are growing concerns. However, proposed solutions like organic farming are beyond the reach of marginal communities, and do not address their nutritional needs. Addressing food geographies of 'trouble' in the Anthropocene requires analyses of physical, social and nutritional transformations, thus, providing crucial insights for our planetary challenges.

Food security in the Global South: The role of genetically modified crops and alternate narratives Niraj Kumar Das (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)

The proposed paper aims to understand the possible geopolitical dynamics arising as a result of production and investment in Genetically Modified (GM) Crops as opposed to conventional crops with focussing on changing narratives of food culture and future of food security especially focussing on Global South. GM Crops has helped millions of people to overcome malnutrition and provided better food production, it has remarkably reduced the use of pesticides, improved farm yield and farmers profits with ability to fight climate change in extreme weather and soil conditions by use of drought and flood resistant varieties. But due to anti-science campaigns, several countries have banned GM-crops However, no organization in the world including the World Health Organization (WHO) and European Commission has been able to prove that GM-crops are harmful to human health. The paper, keeping in mind these facts, analyses the worse effect caused by the ban on GM Crops for instance golden rice, as this GM variety contains Vitamin A and has the potential to overcome all the Vitamin A deficiency. Due to lack of Vitamin A children go blind and around 2 million children die every year from Asia and Africa. The research examines the questions, such as- How would food security will be achieved in global south? What would be the role of international agencies? How would the landscape of GM Crops be affected by the war between conventional and GM Crops? The paper analyses all this scenario that would be determining the future of food security.

Trouble and Hope: Food Geographies 'in', 'of' and 'for' the Anthropocene (4): More-than-human relations Friday Session 4 (16:50-18:30) [Click for session details](#)

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Plastic Geographies: Food packaging and the Anthropocene David Evans (University of Bristol, UK)

This paper considers plastics, suggesting that few materials match their status as a troublesome icon of the Anthropocene. They exemplify some of the ways in which human engagement with the rest of nature – especially under capitalist models of social and economic organisation (Moore 2015) – are bringing about abrupt changes in earth and environmental systems. They also play a key role in the production, distribution, retail and consumption of food. It is perhaps surprising, then, that scant attention has been paid to the relationships between plastics, food and the scientifically-provisional Anthropocene thesis. Focusing specifically on food packaging, my analysis starts to address this critical lacuna. To begin, I outline a number of conceptual resources from cognate disciplines – Economic Sociology, Cultural Studies and STS – that might help in developing approaches to plastics and their Geographies. With these in place, I draw on a range of archival and secondary empirical materials as well as key informant interview data to present some preliminary findings from a study of innovations in food packaging. Attention is paid to changes over time covering both the historical normalisation of plastics and contemporary responses to the challenges of reducing single-use plastics. Crucially, I suggest that any attempt to analyse plastics and packaging must take seriously the insights of materials science. By understanding the interplay of material and cultural processes, it becomes possible to think about how the plastics of the Anthropocene might shift register to become for the Anthropocene. Accordingly, the conclusion reflects on the themes of trouble and hope.

Nexuses and Chickens: locating geographies in the Anthropocene and developing geographies for the Anthropocene Ben Coles (University of Leicester, UK) Carys Bennett (University of Leicester, UK; PETA, USA)

Over the last 70 years or so, the intersection and coordination of key material, technological, political, economic and socio-cultural relations have made chicken meat the dominant source of (meat) protein worldwide. Chicken's pre-eminence as a food source comes with fundamental changes to its skeletal, genetic and geochemical structure that have increased both individual growth rate and population size. Consequently, the modern broiler has emerged as a distinctive morphotype that cannot survive without human intervention. Tracking along with other signals of the 'Great Acceleration', and blurring human/more-than-human/nonhuman boundaries, the broiler chicken has become a key indicator for the Anthropocene (Bennett et al 2018). Much of contemporary Science and Social-Science research on the Anthropocene focuses on identifying such origins, markers, and implications of the Anthropocene. However, whilst the Anthropocene may be a useful metaphor to describe the range of interrelatedness visible within this current time period, this paper contends that Anthropocene itself remains conceptually and methodologically vague, and thus geographically ambiguous. Through the lens of the 'Anthropocene Chicken' this paper locates the geographies of the Anthropocene within the material-technological, political-economic and sociocultural nexus that gave rise to the modern broiler chicken. In three cuts, it develops and employs a nexus approach that identifies, traces and excavates the 'flows that matter' (Walker and Coles in review) to the chicken's evolution and its geographies. In developing nexus thinking to understand these Geographies of the Anthropocene, this paper argues that such an approach provides a conceptual and methodological basis through which to develop a geography for the Anthropocene.

Human-Nonhuman Foldings: Understanding perceptions of soil liveliness through hopeful soil management knowledge-practices Samantha Outhwaite (University of Sheffield, UK) Anna Krzywoszynska (University of Sheffield, UK)

In the context of the Anthropocene it is vital that we begin to take seriously not only how humans impact the non-human world but how human practices fold into earth-surface systems (Castree, 2017). It is precisely this ‘folding’ that this paper explores through existing and emerging knowledge-practices in UK agriculture, working to foster sustainable human-environmental relations through soil management. Based on preliminary analysis of qualitative interview data gathered for a project on UK farmers’ use of a new soil metagenomics analysis service, this paper presents understandings of soil and strategies for soil management that offer hopeful perspectives of sustainable food production systems. Shedding light on the ways the impacts of cultivations/food production are assessed in the daily knowledge-practices of farming, and how these farmers are not ‘living with’ but growing with and managing significant food and farming-related ‘environmental troubles’. Whilst exploring more-than-human co-productions that make up these hopeful management strategies, we argue that the perceiving of, and relating to, soil as a lively ecosystem is crucial to hopeful soil management as it re-frames the foldings of human practices and earth-surface systems.

Organic Assemblages in West Bengal, India: Smallholder Perspectives Shantonu Abe Chatterjee (University of Cologne, Germany)

Economic Geographers have traditionally studied organic agriculture in the Global South using value chain approaches framed within a neoliberal paradigm. These approaches, however, failed to view things from a smallholder’s perspective, often reducing them to the role of instruction-receiving suppliers for firms selling organic produce. They also overlook ‘translations’ occurring at the fringes, making it difficult to understand what happens on the ground. I adopt instead an analytic of assemblage theory as operationalized by Tania Murray Li, and present here my exploration of organic agriculture from a smallholder perspective, with a study in the Indian state of West Bengal. One of the epicentres of the Green Revolution in India and a rice-growing area, rural Bengal is a quintessential landscape of the Anthropocene. In this context, I try to understand why and how farmers are trying to change their farming practices in order to improve environmental sustainability. Through semi-structured ‘go-along’ interviews, I document how farmers in West Bengal understand organic agriculture, and what practices they employ in order to assemble a form of organic agriculture in an environment that is unfavourable to it. Farmers explain how they assemble ‘indigenous rice’ production systems despite pressures from ‘summer rice’, ‘brassicac’ and ‘subsidies’ which thwart their attempts. Through this documentation, I try to enunciate how smallholders face a precarious situation, but at the same time are using what they understand as organic farming as a strategy to reconfigure materials, actors (human and non-human), and knowledge, in the search for a more sustainable future.



Albert Monument in Hyde Park, opposite Albert Hall near RGS-IBG HQ (BAS 2017)

3. RGRG and EnGRG co-sponsored Rural Energy Transitions sessions at the RGS-IBG Cardiff meet 30th Aug. 2018.

(rgrg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/RGRGNewsletter-Winter2018-19.pdf). Dr Dorice Agol (PhD, Uni-East Anglia) splits work between consultancies with research in rural areas of East Africa including Kenya, and is affiliated with UK universities. She offers reasons for optimism at how digital energy and communications technology are stimulating incomes for people once deemed lost to a digital divide. – Editor

Powering local economies via off-grid solar energy in rural Kenya

Dr Dorice Agol (PhD, University of East Anglia)

International Consultant, Environment and Development.

Photos by Dorice Agol &BAS. E: agoldorice@hotmail.com

Energy access is linked to socioeconomic benefits such as improved health, education, gender equality, income and much more. The landscape of rural Kenya, in East Africa, and littoral areas of Lake Victoria, are being improved by greater availability of off-grid renewable solar energy.

Creating opportunities for affordable electricity helps drive local economies. Today, over 75% of Kenya's energy comes from renewable sources including biomass, biogas, hydro-power, geothermal, solar and wind.

The article is based on research in the Lake Victoria Region of western Kenya. Results show that there is a growing number of installed solar energy systems in the region, generating low cost power. Solar panels are sited on rooftops or on the ground to capture light, converting it into power and used for lighting, mobile phone charging, entertainment, fishing, refrigeration, pumping water, poultry and dairy farming.

A significant change associated with access to solar energy is the increased use of mobile phones. In areas where on-grid electricity is lacking, mobile phone charging hubs which use solar power have become valuable. These hubs are connected to solar energy systems and people pay to have their phones charged. The solar energy is also used to power television and radio which connect rural people with urban areas and the outside world.



The use of solar power for income-generating activities is widespread in rural areas, including fisheries, grocery shops, hair dressing and barber shops, phone charging, etc. In the Lake region, the market for solar energy is expanding in the fishing industry, particularly in remote island areas which lack on-grid electricity supplies. Improved access to solar power is creating business in the fishing industry, raising household income in ruralities. Currently, most solar-powered systems support numerous connections (e.g. more than 50 households) and apply a pay-as-you-go model where a user connection fee is

charged according to amount of power used. Some hubs are communal and managed by community-based organization (CBOs) while others are privately owned.

As most islands on Lake Victoria still lack basic infrastructure and market facilities, solar micro-grids installed to provide local power networks are causing significant changes in the way people trade. Many small-scale artisanal fishers now use solar-powered lamps for fishing activities at night. Fishermen know that solar power is safer compared to kerosene lamps, saves money, time and effort and increases their catch. Some businesses have started making ice using solar power and are thriving by selling ice to fishermen to preserve fish. Without preserving fish, commercial buyers and middlemen

tend to exploit fishermen who are often desperate to get rid of their catch while still fresh. Fresher fish find favour



Fishers and fish traders also enjoy the use of solar-powered mobile phones to communicate with their customers and family. Some solar power systems are connected to smart meters and mobile phone money transfer systems (MPESA) where users can pay for power directly on pay-as-you-go arrangements. Fisherman and traders can charge solar lamps and torches, mobile phones and radios.



Mobile phones and radios are useful for trading and receiving information; there is constant communication and movement of goods and services which promotes efficiency in trading. Some fishers and traders with phones have subscribed to forecasts on weather and market prices helping them to choose fishing sites while avoiding days with extreme weather and poor market conditions.

In conclusion, access to solar power has brought considerable changes in rural energy landscape. These changes are reflected in vibrant rural economies characterized by small and medium enterprises (SMEs). There is no doubt that solar power is becoming the fastest-growing energy source and is powering local economies in rural Kenya. – **RGRG News**



4. Enhancing conceptual and practical understandings of farming resilience and emancipatory possibilities in the countryside of Rio de Janeiro Metropolis

Felipe da Silva Machado - University of Plymouth, UK

Editor: RGRG Postgraduate Representative Felipe da Silva Machado blends old and new methods in his fresh approach to rural-urban matters. Read and imagine your best days 'in the field.'



I am a fully funded PhD Candidate in the Human Geography Department at University of Plymouth and post-graduate representative (2018-2019) of the Royal Geographical Society Rural Geography Research Group. I am writing this to introduce my PhD study exploring farmers' strategies and networks. It highlights the importance of sharing, building knowledges, and learning practices in the rural hinterland of Rio de Janeiro in a global era.

During my Undergraduate and Masters in Geography at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, I specialized in Rural and Agricultural Geography, investigating the themes of urban and peri-urban agriculture in the Brazilian context, and socio-spatial restructuring of metropolitan regions at the rural-urban interface.



Figure 1. As a methodological strategy to understand the spatial mobility of social actors in the rural areas of the hinterland of Rio de Janeiro, I travelled with public transport. Sometimes, informal conversations on the bus were important for a better understanding of ongoing space processes from everyday life. (Source: Author, 2017)

Global processes have produced different farming systems and multifunctional agriculture in Brazil. Variation also occurs within regions, exemplified by rural-urban complexity observed across the rural hinterland of Rio de Janeiro (Bicalho, 1998; Bicalho and Machado, 2013; Hoefle, 2014).

As the metropolitan area expanded outward land prices increased, productive strategies changed, family members and workers left to work in non-agricultural sectors and farmland was lost to urban sprawl and nature reserves.



Figure 2. One of the main intercity buses that I took to make the connection between the city of Rio de Janeiro and the East metropolitan region, crossing the Bay of Guanabara. The route was fundamental for observing the landscape and perception about spatial changes, the relational rural geography and integration of the rural area within the metropolitan dynamic of Greater Rio. (Source: Author, 2017)

The challenges for rural areas in the early twenty-first century (Woods, 2011, 2012), such as resilience of farmers' communities to macro-scalar lock-in effects, have received more attention recently (Wilson, 2008, 2010; Darnhofer, 2010; Darnhofer et al., 2016; Ingram, 2018).

The built-up area of Rio de Janeiro has expanded outward and the metro population has increased (IBGE, 1991, 2010, 2016). New industrial and petroleum complexes and port facilities were installed on the limits of the metropolitan region in recent decades.

My PhD research, which is based on several phases of observation and interviews (see Figures 1-5) with farmers, decision-makers and other local and regional actors in Brazil, highlights the complexity of rural-urban relations across Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Region, where land use, economic and environmental policies have generated multiple forms of conflict, resulting in agriculture becoming juxtaposed with other functions and interests in ways forming a mosaic of diversified land use.



Figure 3. Oral histories, a form of interview used to gather, preserve and interpret the voices and memories of people about past events. (Source: Author, 2017)



Figure 4. Catching a ride, collecting stories. Conducting adhoc interviews 'on the go'. Doing fieldwork research in rural areas via multiple forms of mobility. (Source: Author, 2017)



Figure 5. Guavas, oranges, pineapples are among fruit and veg sold on one of the main roads of Itaboraí, Rio de Janeiro. (Source: Author, 2017)



Figure 6. Farmers indicated three main varieties of orange that are combined with the market demand of Greater Rio guaranteeing production all year. One of the varieties of orange, which originates in the rural hinterland of Rio de Janeiro, resists the high temperatures of summer in the lowland and drought period, keeping the fruit for a longer period than the other orange varieties. The cultivar 'Folha Murcha' is an orange tree type Valencia (*Citrus sinensis* (L.) Osbeck] originated from spontaneous mutation in Araruama, Rio de Janeiro. Brazil is the world's largest producer of orange juice. However, it has no tradition in the production of highquality citrus fruits for consumption as observed in the local Rio economy. (Source: Author, 2017)

The thesis discusses the challenges of small-scale farming resilience in industrialised areas of Southeast Brazil, focusing on farmers' communities in Greater Rio de Janeiro and how they cope with globalisation and more localised pressures. Many places and farms were researched several times to detect change, based on analyses of the nature of places, informed by bottom-up information flows and qualitative investigations. The practical outcome of my research will be better-targeted policies in the rural hinterland of Greater Rio de Janeiro to promote regional agricultural systems, small-scale farming strategies, and resilient rural futures.

I have designed a framework that recognizes resilient farming systems while providing insights on farmers' capacity to change conditions and relationships, especially by reconciling community agency and broader political, economic and social forces experienced in Rio's hinterland and beyond. To understand the complex interrelationships between global issues and farming resilience, I argue that rural studies should apply multi-method approaches that engage more closely with farmers' life histories, farm trajectories, transitions and development pathways.

Another step is to develop equitable academic partnerships with rural communities.

The research reveals that a group of farmers has been able to elaborate flexible strategies adapted to the availability of financial and natural resources. Different types of knowledge (Figures 6, 7 and 8), innovations (Figures 9 and 10), organizations (Figure 11), and crossscale linkages (Figure 12) are part of this process in which farmers are proactive in the face of rural change. This is often made possible by the difference between rural-urban interactions present in Brazilian metropolitan regions and their hinterland, in contrast to those encountered in essentially agricultural regions, distant from and less affected by large urban centres.



Figure 7. The guandu [*Cajanus cajan*] is associated with nitrogen fixation processes in the soil. It gives support to orange trees. In addition to protecting soil, it helps in financial terms, because it supplementts the farm family's income. (Source: Author, 2017)

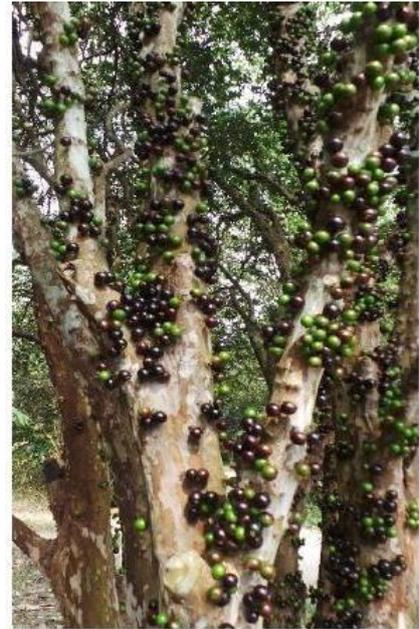


Figure 8. Non-commercial fruit crops such as jaboticaba [*Plinia cauliflora*] and some little-known Brazilian fruits have been preserved in the rural hinterland of Rio de Janeiro. (Source: Author, 2017)



Figure 9. Various types of technical knowledge gained during the transition towards quality production in the small-scale fruit sector in the rural hinterland of Rio de Janeiro and the role of on-farm experimentation in the learning processes. One of the most dynamic farmers has only 8.5 hectares of land but annually markets over 300 tonnes of a select branded guava, registered with the National Association of Industrial and Intellectual Property (ANPII). The prices received are over two times those for common guavas. (Source: Author, 2017)



Figure 10. Switching from a productivist system to an agroecological system with recovery of Atlantic Forest areas. This farmer is a local leader on environmental issues and voice of resistance to the process of urbanization. As she is involved in the Rural Development Council, she challenges local policy that does not recognize the complexity and diversity of rural areas. (Source: Author, 2017)

Farmer's associations enable farm community to maintain local capacity for social organization, engaging with various institutions and building important cross-scale linkages. Farmers' associations also allow the construction of both individualized knowledge and community knowledge. The associations represent the social group in this context of rural-urban interaction and the importance of farmers being open to change, which also contributes to the complex outcomes.

It is important that farmers maintain local capacity for social organization, engaging with various institutions and building important cross-scale linkages. Farmers' associations also allow the construction of both individualized knowledge and community knowledge. The associations represent the social group in this context of rural-urban interaction and the importance of farmers being open to change, which also contributes to the complex outcomes. (Source: Author, 2017)



Figure 11. The research highlights patterns of farming resilience and emancipatory possibilities in an urbanizing and global society, whereby farmers have adapted to uneven processes of rural change that have arisen in Rio's hinterland over the years. Besides the PhD study, most of my research trajectory has been directed at agricultural studies and rural development in the context of globalisation. (Source: Author, 2017)

For example, in my Masters' thesis research I investigated the dynamics of agriculture within restructuring processes affecting rural spaces in Rio de Janeiro countryside regions. **The spatial configuration of the Metropolis of Rio de Janeiro was presented as a 'double movement' involving the consolidation of metropolitan space and changes in its periphery, where urbanisation increases urban-rural interaction and conflicts over land use.**

The rural hinterland, previously marginal to metropolitan dynamics, has been incorporated into peripheral urbanisation that has exerted profound effects on rural spaces. Firstly, the study presented the theoretical and methodological discussions about spatial restructuring in rural-urban interfaces, emphasizing the complexity of agriculture in the urban areas in metropolitan processes. Finally, agricultural activities, their spatial distribution, and socioproductive features were identified, expressing the diversity and the complexity of rural-urban interaction dynamics in contemporary rural spaces of metropolitan regions. context of reordering areas in interaction and conflicts. Through these lines of investigation, the study provided novel insights on the geographical position of peri-urban areas in metropolitan processes. Finally, agricultural activities, their spatial distribution, and socio-productive features were identified, expressing the diversity and the complexity of rural-urban interaction dynamics in contemporary rural spaces of metropolitan regions.

Overall, during the past 12 years, and especially in my PhD, I have investigated the long-term viability of farming system and rural landscape in the Rio de Janeiro metropolitan region, the second largest urban area of Brazil as a transition economy. Using a multidimensional approach to analyse agriculture practised on the rural-urban expansion, and the historical agrarian context of different parts of the metropolitan region, I have argued that increasing competition from industrial, residential, environmental functions presents both opportunity and conflict for rural activities within mosaics of diversified land use in inner and outer metropolitan spaces. **Some changes do not necessarily cause agricultural decline but can instead induce rural development and adaptation through the diversification and intensification of farm production in responses to new metropolitan and international demand.**

Such adaptive processes have improved some farmers' resilience, but are also problematized by

contradictions in urban land-use policy that threaten farming. Brazilian agricultural policies usually focus on making agribusiness-farming systems more robust against shocks in the short term. However, a broader view of resilience is needed to ensure a sustainable small-scale agricultural sector in Brazil which can develop farmer capacities and adapt farming systems to changing circumstances and to transform their agricultural models in order to maintain long-term supply of food and public goods.

A leading motivation for my research is to contribute to growing social and political awareness of the complex global and local impacts of food decisions on rural landscapes and communities, through enhancing conceptual and practical understandings of how communities and governments can work collaboratively to nurture a multifunctional and sustainable global countryside. Cont'd...



Figure 12. Events organised and material produced by agricultural researchers and farmer's association: different types of knowledge, rural innovations and cross-scale linkages are part of this process of social resilience of small scale farming systems. This is about the ability to combine scientific information with farming traditional knowledge. (Source: Author, 2017)

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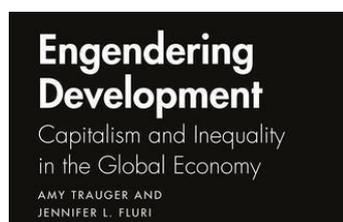
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Felipe da Silva Machado is a fully funded PhD Candidate within the Human Geography Department at the University of Plymouth (UK), researching the global countryside and farming resilience in Brazil. Postgraduate Representative (2018-2019) of the Royal Geographical Society Rural Geography Research Group. His PhD study explores farmers' strategies and networks and highlights the importance of sharing, building knowledges, and learning practices in the rural hinterland of Rio de Janeiro in a global era. During his Undergraduate and Masters in Geography at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, he specialized in Rural and Agricultural Geography, investigating the themes of urban and peri-urban agriculture in the Brazilian context and socio-spatial restructuring of metropolitan regions at the rural-urban interface. His PhD research in the UK is funded by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), Ministry of Education of Brazil.

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5. BOOKS Engendering Development



Capitalism and Inequality in the Global Economy
By Amy Trauger & Jennifer L. Fluri Routledge 1st Edition
 160 pages | 19 B/W Illus.
 For Instructors: Request Inspection Copy

Paperback: 9780415789677 pub: 2019-05-22. £29.99 Hardback:
 9780415789660 pub: 2019-05-29. £95.00 eBook (VitalSource):
 9781315213842.
 pub: 2019-05-10. £29.99/£26.99 SAVE £3.00 12 Month Rental - £18.00

Geographers seeking books with fresh looks at current disputes should examine this. Issues include the DAPL petroleum pipeline rejected by the (mostly white) residents of

Bismarck, North Dakota as endangering their water supplies – now threatening the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. A section on emancipatory technologies traces the beneficial health effects for women and families, by moving from biomass, such as dung cakes, wood and coal, to solar cookers, and also biogas for smokeless cooking as shown on page 1 of this *RGRG Newsletter*.

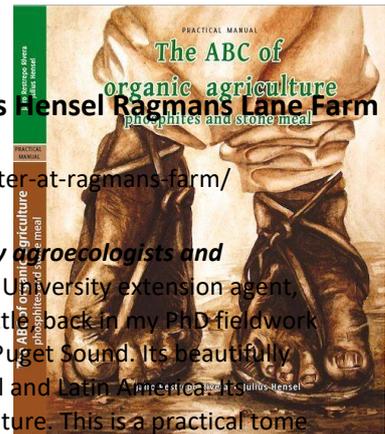
Amy Trauger (top right) is an Associate Professor in Geography at the University of Georgia, with interests including food sovereignty, sustainable and alternative agriculture, human-environment interactions, gender and farming. Amy presented in an RGRG session at our RGS-IBG annual meeting in London, several years ago. Co-author Jennifer L. Fluri is an Associate Professor of Geography at Pennsylvania State University, addressing feminist political geography, conflict security and development in Afghanistan. Let's hope Trauger and Fluri plan future visits to RGRG events in Britain or future Quadrennials. - **Editor**



The ABC of Organic Agriculture By Jairo Restrepo Rivera with Julius Hensel Ragmans Lane Farm

www.ragmans.co.uk/shop/abc_of_organic_agriculture/

<http://www.reminscotland.com/latest-news/jairo-restrepo-learning-from-themaster-at-ragmans-farm/>



Imagine a book not available on Amazon in the US or UK. One to be welcomed by agroecologists and permaculturists on all continents? Kate Halstead, variably an Eastern Washington University extension agent, farmer, and activist who helped organise the Carnation Farmers' Market near Seattle, Washington, back in my PhD fieldwork days, had a book sent to me in Durham and tasked me to deliver it to her around Puget Sound. Its beautifully illustrated 396 pages reflect Jairo Restrepo Rivera's background in Columbia, Brazil and Latin America. The English translation from Spanish to English in 2017 was a benchmark in sustainable agriculture. This is a practical tome that will find space in farmers' homes and barns.

Presently, US Secretary of Agriculture Sony Perdue and corporations are forcing certification of soilless hydroponic systems in the National Organic Program. Traditional organicists Rudolf Steiner, Eve Balfour, Albert Howard and JI Rodale might be impressed that the English translation of Jairo's original Spanish publisher La Mierda Vaca means 'Cowshit.' Jairo is famous for practical soil classes in many countries - recently in Gloucestershire.

Chapter 5 of the book, 'Stonemeal' is by an icon in the organic attic, Julius Hensel (1833-1903), who was persecuted by German chemical magnate I.G. Farben. This is a labour of love and commitment. It should be on hand as we strive to feed 10 billion Earthlings by the year 2050.

Consider: The authors urge reproduction of the book without altering it, not for profit, without advertising. – Editor

[Rural Quadrennial 2019 https://blog.uvm.edu/cemorse-ruralquadrennial2019/](https://blog.uvm.edu/cemorse-ruralquadrennial2019/)

A University of Vermont blog



Working Landscapes, Livable Communities July 13-19, 2019

The Ninth Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers is hosted by Peter Nelson (Middlebury College) and Cheryl Morse (University of Vermont) in Vermont, USA. Rural geographers from Australia, Wales, Northern Ireland, England, Canada, Scotland, England, and the United States will gather to share research, discuss pressing rural concerns, and conduct experiential learning. Thirty-two papers will be presented, focusing on the following conference and research areas: **Working Landscapes and Livable Communities**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity in Rural Spaces • Rural (Im)Mobilities • Rural Relationality and Experience • Social & Ecological Change in Rural Landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimensions of Resource Extraction • Rural Dynamics Beyond the UK, US, and Canada • Rural Cultural Resilience • Rural Politics, Planning, and Development
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The meeting will feature two plenaries:

- “The Quadrennial Rural Geography Meetings: A Topical Retrospective” by Lisa Harrington, emerita, Kansas State University
- “A Return to Topophilia: Recognising & Celebrating Critically an Emotive Rural” by Keith Halfacree, Swansea University



Rural Quad participants will also engage in round table discussions of rural development questions posed by our sponsors Vermont Community Foundation, AARP-Vermont, and Vermont Council on Rural Development. We will spend time at the University of Vermont, Middlebury College, and the Mad River Valley. Field studies will take us to the Northeast Kingdom and Champlain Valley regions of the state. Contact Cheryl Morse: cheryl.morse@uvm.edu or Peter Nelson: pnelson@middlebury.edu with any questions.

Travel: Cheryl Morse wrote (12Jun19): Our first event, a reception and a plenary by Lisa Harrington, will begin at 5:00 on Saturday, July 13, so please plan travel accordingly. The first half of the conference will be spent at the University of Vermont in Burlington, at University Heights dormitory, and various sites in the area. The second half will be in the Mad River Valley. We will have everyone back to Burlington by noon on Friday the 19th. *If you need earlier transport to make a flight, please let us know in advance by sending an email to Lucia.*

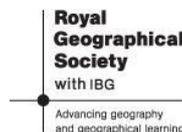


RGRG Newsletter * Summer 2019 (19th June 2019)

www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg_newsletter/ Photo credits: RGS-IBG, B.A. Scholten, LYNCS, F. da Silva Machado, D. Agol **

RGRG Newsletter invites your submissions for the Winter issue. Deadline 15th November 2019. Email conference reports, pix & news to Editor bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com

NOTE: RGRG Newsletter has migrated from Durham University to WordPress via RGS-IBG HQ London HQ. We will complete upload of old RGRG Newsletters in due time. You can send RGRG archive material, etc. to the Editor.



New website! www.rara.co.uk Thanks to RGRG's Meagan Palmer-Abb and RGS-IBG's Sara Evans for building it!

The banner features a scenic landscape with a blue sky, white clouds, green trees, and mountains in the background. A light blue rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the group's name and affiliation.

RURAL GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

A Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)