



RGRG NEWSLETTER \* Winter 2020-21 (28Nov22) \* <http://rgrg.co.uk/newsletter>

Email Text/pix to Editor [bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com) \*Images: Bas, MPA, M. Losvik, N.Lewis, J. Powell, RBGE, TallWood, Unis, Wiki

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### 1. EDITORIAL: WINTER OF OUR BREXIT, COVID-19 & VACCINE

On Hadrian's Wall your editor is grateful – and not just for masks against COVID-19. As a former Gastarbeiter and Zimmermann in Germany, he experienced problems familiar to guestworkers in his native USA, as well as the UK with Brexit. Our Books section has insights on *International Labour Migration to Europe's Rural Regions*, in which RGRG mainstay Dr Keith Halfacree's chapter treats guestworker issues plaguing farmers in countries beset by populism, that leave food rotting in the fields. A book on the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is reviewed by Dr Charles Howie. This bleak mid-winter issue also showcases pieces by Secretary Megan Palmer-Abbs at a new post in Norway, by Postgrad Rep Aimee Morse – and Prof. Damian Maye, whose Covid-19 Blog invites your participation. **Stay safe!** Email text & pix with RGRG News on subject line to BAS: [bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com)



### 2. NEWS Damian Mayes' Covid-19 Hub



**Prof. Damian Maye** (CCRI, Uni Gloucestershire) has created a COVID-19 sustainable food system learning resource, started early in the pandemic, updated weekly. It has articles and papers, across the food system at multiple scales, plus great blogs from people like you. Damian welcomes input from rural geographers, including postgraduates (e.g. on agri-food and rural-related aspects): Email: [dmaye@glos.ac.uk](mailto:dmaye@glos.ac.uk) Web: <http://www.ccri.ac.uk/covid-19-food-system/>

**Covid-19 and sustainable food systems: shared learning resource**

**Coronavirus impacts food systems in the UK and globally. It brings issues into focus, including:**

- Vulnerability of JIT systems to unpredictable global shocks. Recall FMD 2001 and 2007-08 food price spikes;
- Differentiated nature of impacts in agri-food (Contrast retailer multiples & indies with food service experiences);
- Labour shortages in the horticultural sector;
- Dependence on food banks and charity reveal socio-economic food inequalities in society;
- Supermarkets in food provisioning (in our private food governance model) and their responsibilities in the crisis;
- Role and importance of online retail, including, but not only, online supermarket retail;
- Agility and ability (or not) of producers, processors, retailers, et al to adapt their food to households;
- Need to re-localise food systems, processing (abattoirs, wholesale markets) and shorten food chains for resilience...

More info on:

<http://www.ccri.ac.uk/covid-19-food-system/>



### 3a. RGRG Secretary Megan Palmer-Abbs in Norway



#### Hilsen fra Norge | Greetings from Norway

**Well, I have now lived north of the arctic circle (80 km) for five weeks** and am settling in to new surroundings and academic life in Bodø, Nordland. Tricky, I hear you say in times of the Big C19, and the answer to that is yes! But even more impressive is that prior to lockdown a long-planned trip took my husband and I across the Tropics of Capricorn, Cancer, the Equator and 11 time zones; only the Antarctic circle and few time zones will not be in our repertoire for 2020 (*and yes, climate change mitigation actions in progress, not least little or no travel Mar – Oct*).

**Back to Norway** - we (my family and I) had planned to hub between our house in Scotland and Norway, but alas, the 3-4 hr weekly commuting trip has incurred many Covid related hinderances, not least a 10-day quarantine upon entering Norway (each time), and then the normal C19 local work and social restrictions. But the right job came up, which I love, the opportunity to be overseas in an interesting country was presented, and despite the challenges it was the right thing to do. So here I am, my husband Mark has stepped up to the challenge of travelling (and quarantine (s) as they are multiple between his work in the UK and here) as I cannot just now. This is supported by a healthy use of WhatsApp for family catch ups.

**So, we arrived with 4 bags** on the 2nd October 2020, straight in to quarantine for 10 days. We were able to shop for essential only (with or trusty face masks) and social distanced leisure walks. We are lucky that our location is on the perimeter of town, with direct access to the woods which lead to national parks, hiking, and ski tracks – so actually for us a good set of attributes. We have used this to its full potential walking extensively in the forests, lakes, hills, and now discovering the national park at Sjunkhatten (about 5 miles away by foot – no car yet...). As with Scotland we are embracing all things outdoors and lots of higgling for the dark snowy nights.



**I have taken a position as a Senior Researcher at Nordland Research Institute (Nordland Forskning)**, a research organisation involved in regional development with a focus on innovation, business, environment and health and wellbeing. We work strongly with the North Regions and liaisons with partners in these areas. Work is both applied and theoretical, but the key focus is supporting partners overcome key challenges in progressing towards a sustainable and resilient society. The organisation and people are excellent to work with and I am building lots of new collaborations from local to international.

**My current focus** revisits some old areas of expertise not least, sustainable construction, innovation in areas of product, value chain innovation and service models change, as well as new areas such as innovation in fisheries and plastic circular economy projects. Always with a mind that peripheral remote regions areas have differing challenges in their spatial and climate change issues. This is no more illustrated by the opening of trading routes across the northern landmasses in the Arctic as a result of climate change – bringing both opportunity but challenges to planetary and human welfare.

**So, an insight to where and what I am doing...** Based in the business group but with inter disciplinary collaborations. The Business research group at Nordland Research Institute has long and wide-ranging experience in research related to business and industry. The business research group consists of nine senior researchers with backgrounds from economics, management, innovation and entrepreneurship, and sociology. Key research areas are regional and business development (with especial focus on Norway and the northern areas), innovation processes in both private and public sectors, socio-economic perspectives on technology development (including Responsible Research and Innovation), sustainability transitions and the circular economy.



The group leads various research projects, with funding sources such as a number of research contracts with counties and municipalities, grants from the Research Council of Norway, and funding from the EU through Horizon 2020. The business group works closely with the other two research groups (Environment and Welfare), and also has good cooperation with other research environments in Norway and abroad, as well as private and public actors. Important industries for the group's research are algae, construction, energy, industry, seafood, tourism and waste management.



For now, just in my 5th week in at Nordland, I am building a home environment, learning Norwegian (still!), building bridges both socially and work wise, exploring new vistas and planning my cross-country skiing as the snow starts to fall, trying to manage C19 lockdown restrictions and my dual living between Scotland and Norway. The cat is coping with her cattery & Scottish home living (thanks to Lynda our lovely cattery lady) as we adapt. I am most grateful for warm welcomes in Norway. *I think this is all more than enough for now...*

Megan Palmer-Abbs (MPA, PhD)  
RGRG Secretary & Seniorforsker  
[www.nordlandsforskning.no](http://www.nordlandsforskning.no)



**MPA emailed (18-27 Nov 2020)**

**Subject: RGRG interim virtual meeting**

*Dear All - Well the year is ticking along and our remote working skills are being utilised to their full potential still. I know we are all pretty busy with new ways of working etc, but I think it would be good to have a virtual meeting in place of our face2face December meeting.*

*\* At the moment we have put forward the idea of a virtual international conference for Rural Geographers.*

*\*The CCRI Winter School may also be an event our PGRs are involved in.*

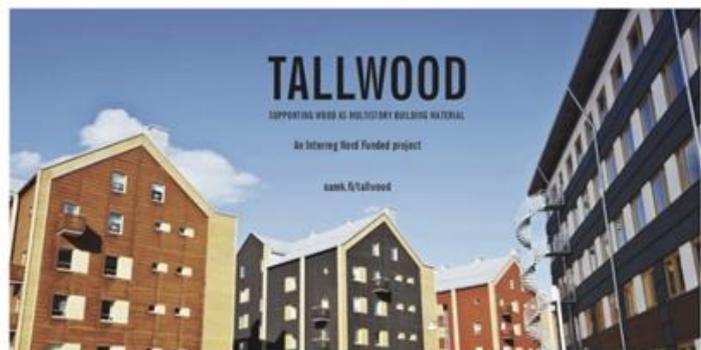
*\*Then we have our RGS Conference calls and usual annual tasks to complete (medals & awards, etc). I imagine the Conference scene will continue to be a blended experience and it would be good to hear where we have representation.*

*If anyone has any news for our webpage please send – it is looking pretty out dated just now – so conference calls, publications, things our members may feel are of interest, etc.*

**Vennlig hilsen / Best regards - Megan – MPA – RGRG Secretary**

## TallWood – Supporting wood as multi-story building material

TallWood er et utviklingsprosjekt finansiert av Interreg Nord, Fylkesmannen i Nordland og Gildeskål kommune med formål å utvikle kunnskap og erfaringer i bruk av tre og massivtre (CLT) som byggemateriale i større bygg, i kombinasjon med andre materialer. Målet er å bidra til økt bruk av tre som byggemateriale og redusere klimaavtrykket i byggenæringen. Det vil også kunne gi grunnlag for økt avirkning av skogressurser i Nordland med et betydelig potensial for regional verdiskaping.



### 3b. Megan Palmer-Abbs presided over RGRG's Virtual AGM & Committee election 2 Sep 2020.

We are an active and energetic team from many areas of expertise with the sole aim of representing the members of the RGRG and furthering insights on all things rural geography.



RGRG Committee in library of RGS-IBG London 2 Dec 2019

We are pleased to share our new updated committee for 2020-21

Name	Committee Position	Term dates (start and end years)
Prof. Martin Phillips	Chair	2019-2022
Dr Megan Palmer-Abbs	Secretary	2018-2021
Dr Andrew Maclaren	Treasurer	2020-2021
Dr Bruce A. Scholten	Newsletter Editor (Bas)	2018-2021
Dr Fiona Williams	Ordinary member (Dissertation Prizes)	2018-2021
Dr Felipe da Silva Machado	Ordinary member (Social Media & JISMail co-ordinator)	2019-2022
Prof. Damian Maye	Ordinary member	2019-2022
Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane	Ordinary member	2019-2022
Dr Julie Urquhart	Ordinary member	2018-2021
Dr Fidel Budy	Ordinary member	2018-2021
Dr Keith Halfacree	Ordinary member (co-opted)	2019-2021
Dr Gareth Enticott	Ordinary member (co-opted)	2020-2022
Aimee Morse	PGR representative	2020-2021
Niamh McHugh	PGR representative	2020-2021

RGRG AGM 2019  
RGS-IBG London  
(Bas 19Aug19)



#### 4. Aimee Morse, RGRG PGR Representative, 2020-2021, reports on events in Covid-19.



[aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk](mailto:aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk) Twitter: @06aims

August 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> saw the RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum hold a first Twitter Conference for postgrads conducting research in geography and related disciplines. Participants were asked to present research in no more than five tweets. They were then given 15 minutes to respond to questions, which people were able to ask by responding to the presentation threads. There were a number of sessions relating to RGRG, including Geographies of Agriculture, Food and Drink and Environmental Geographies.

#### Here are snapshots from Jenny Knight (Uni-Birmingham) & Théo Lenormand (Gloucestershire) at the conference.

**Jenny Knight** @missjsknight

Hi folks! I'm an interdisciplinary researcher in the final stages of data collection exploring the expertise and experiences of land managers, modeling treescape impacts on catchment hydrology and exploring how these are entangled disciplines #pgftc2020 #pgfhome #envgeog #trees

We live in complex landscapes where land 'use' has been shaped by social, environmental and geomorphological systems. Land 'cover' has seen gradual change incl. a significant reduction in tree cover over the past century.

Watersheds do not always fit either upland or lowland 'boxes' and can drain to complex river networks that during the summer could be described brooks and in the winter - torrents!

1:00 PM · Aug 25, 2020 · Twitter Web App

5 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 23 Likes

**Jenny Knight** @missjsknight · Aug 25

Prelim findings include:  
Farmers/Landmanagers (LM) plant trees:  
LM expertise has an important impact on data collection:  
LM preferences informed by multiple factors incl not ruled by) economics:  
The social and physical (incl geomorphological) are entangled in landscapes [3/5]

On Farm learning about silage!  
How can you convey, in academic research, the knowledge that enables someone to judge the quality and constituents of silage by the smell? Understanding the importance of this type of knowledge helps us understand the depth of experience of the farming community and how much knowledge is missed. Why is this relevant? The type of grass you grow and the level of nutrition depends on land cover, water retention, weather etc. key aspects of hydrology. A 'scientific' approach would separate these aspects, but a farmer has to work with the whole system. .

**Jenny Knight** @missjsknight · Aug 25

Prelim findings cont:  
LM prefs for features like shelterbelts and steep slope woodlands produce feasible alternative scenarios with significant impacts on catchment hydrology.  
Where, which & how trees grow more important than no. planted.  
#NaturalFloodManagement #NFM [4/5]

During and one week after the October 2019 floods



**Jenny Knight** said the conference 'was quite a challenging format but [she] found that the questions people asked were even more interesting and on point than normal at, say, a poster presentation. That time to think, and feedback, virtually gave people space to engage in some really interesting ways!'

You can find Jenny Knight on [Twitter @missjsknight](https://twitter.com/missjsknight), or head over to [her blog](#) to read more about her work.



Continued...

**RGRG 1<sup>st</sup> Twitter Conference for Postgrads continued...**

**Théo Lenormand** @to\_lnr

#pgfhome #pgftc2020 My 2019 Master's Degree Thesis focused on the analysis of the impact of the last CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) reforms in Wales 🇬🇧 on a diversified lowland territory and its farms; South Pembrokeshire [1/5]

#agrieconomy #agpolicy #farms

11:00 AM · Aug 25, 2020 · Twitter Web App

1 Retweet 1 Quote Tweet 12 Likes

**Théo Lenormand** @to\_lnr · Aug 25

Replying to @to\_lnr

#AgrarianDiagnosis -> fieldwork based method to analyse a given Agrarian Situation in a small area. It aggregates the impact of external, local... factors to explain individual farms evolutions. Reconstructing a changing & working (💰 and 🍅🍆🥕🥒🥔) farming landscape [2/5]

1 7

**Théo Lenormand** @to\_lnr · Aug 25

Last #CAP periods -> #devolution for Wales 🇬🇧, + independence in its local implementation. It was possible to choose the implementation of the #1stPillar (legacy direct payment to support farmer's income 💰 75% £) and of the #2ndPillar (Environmental focus 💰 25% ) [3/5]

1 6

[Théo Lenormand \(@to\\_lnr\)](#)

is on Twitter.



**RGRG Newsletter Editor recommends Théo Lenormand's presentation 'Covid 19 Crisis Short part 3 – Short of Milk, Short of Cash', published June 10, 2020 by RGRG Admin: <https://rgrg.co.uk/covid-19-crisis-short-part-3-short-of-milk-short-of-cash>**



If you want to find more presentations from the conference, head over to Twitter and search for **#PGFTC2020**. All presenters were asked to include this hashtag in their work so it could be found by anyone, at any time!

**- Aimee Morse**

**RGRG PGR Representative, 2020-2021**

[aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk](mailto:aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk)

**Twitter: @06aims**

## 5. New and Emerging Rural Researchers' symposium, prior to virtual RGRG AGM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep 2020.



By Aimee Morse, PGR Rep 2020-2021 [aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk](mailto:aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk) Twitter: @06aims

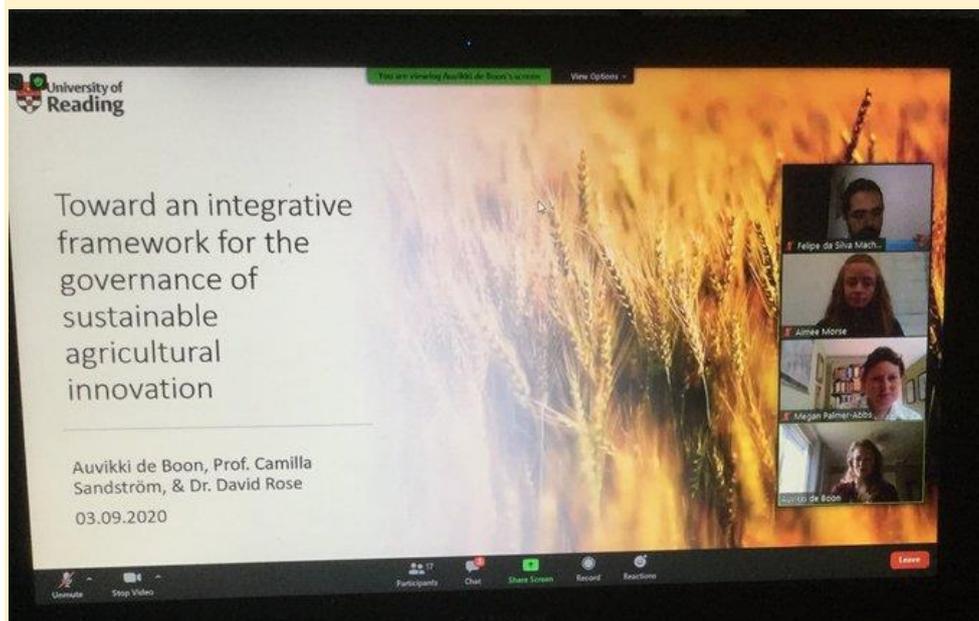
Cancellation of the RGS Annual Conference did not stop some of our PhD and ECR rural geographers from presenting their research to a group of colleagues in the 'New and Emerging Rural Researchers' symposium, held prior to the RGRG AGM on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. During the hour long session we heard from 4 researchers: [Niamh McHugh](#), University of Leicester; Auvikki de Boon, University of Reading; [Dr Felipe da Silva Machado](#), University of Plymouth; and, [Viktoria Noka](#), University of Glasgow.

**Niamh McHugh's presentation focused on the impacts of digital marketing on processes of rural gentrification.**

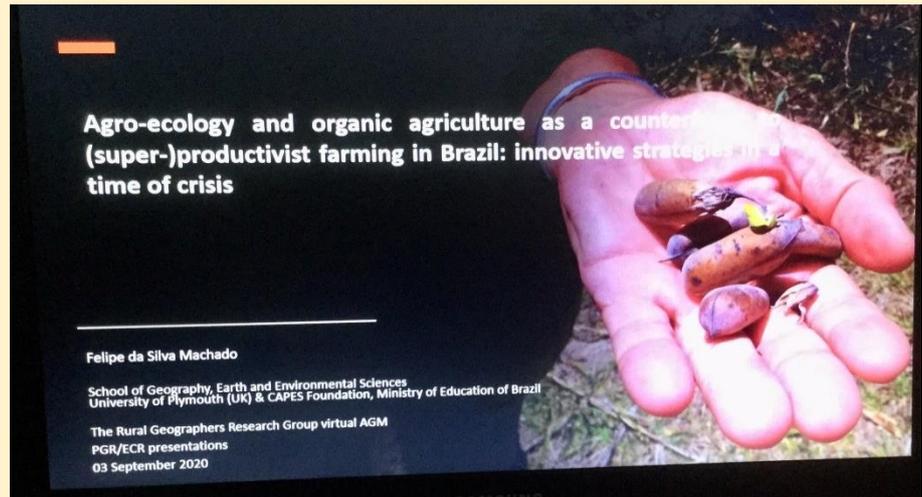
She discussed her key findings from interviews with rural estate agents and homebuyers, exploring these stakeholders' experiences of operating and buying online, and how this has affected rural areas.



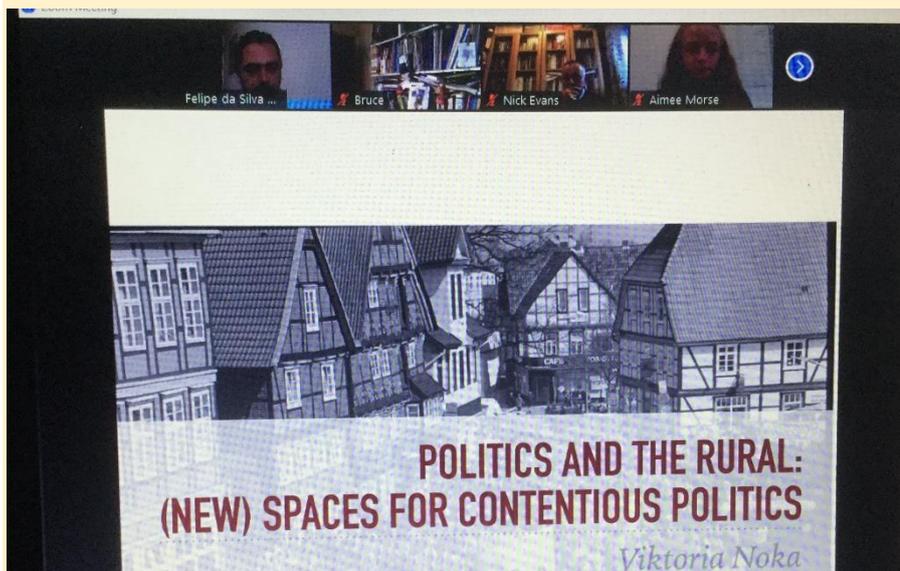
**Auvikki de Boon, University of Reading** discussed progress on her first PhD paper, which looks at an integrative framework for the governance of sustainable agricultural innovation. This framework takes numerous factors into account to enable more sustainable, socially just, and legitimate innovation processes and outcomes. You can learn about Auvikki's work [here](#).



**Dr Felipe da Silva Machado, University of Plymouth** highlighted various dimensions of alternative systems of food production in Brazil, e.g. agroecological agriculture – and political priorities in the emergence and resilience of such systems.



**Viktoria Noka, University of Glasgow**, in her first presentation to rural geographers, challenged the notion that dynamic spaces of political engagement are reserved for the urban by exploring the four decade long anti-nuclear, activist culture in Wendland, Germany. She focused on the alternative practices and forms of living which take place in rural spaces and argued the need to diversify the scope of contentious politics.



Though it might not have been the same as seeing the presentations in person, the symposium still offered each presenter a chance to hear feedback on their work and answer any questions... Indeed, holding the symposium online meant people could ask questions as they thought of them, and through capturing the questions in the chat function, it was possible to give each presenter their questions after the event to think about in their own time too.

**Auvikki de Boon, University of Reading, tells us more about her experience below:**

*"Presenting at the RGRG PhD/ECR Symposium was a great possibility to share my research and receive feedback. It was a double first for me: the first presentation since I started my PhD and the first time presenting online. Presenting online makes it difficult to connect [with] the audience. But thanks to the chat function and short discussion after the presentation it was a valuable experience that gave me additional input to develop my work. In this time when we mostly work from home this online symposium was a very welcome and helpful platform for interaction."*

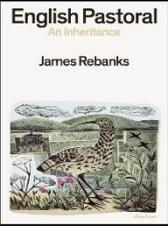
\*

Thanks everyone who made the symposium a success. Here's to a similar session *in person* at the 2021 Annual Conference!

- Aimee Morse, RGRG PGR Representative, 2020-2021 [aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk](mailto:aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk) Twitter: @06aims

- RGRG Newsletter

**6. Rural Geography Research Group Book Club by Aimee Morse, PGR Rep 2020-2021**



Rural geographers are invited to attend our monthly book club, where we discuss key talking points from the group's book, article or programme of choice. Recent meetings focused on James Rebanks' *English Pastoral*, and several articles from the *Journal of Rural Studies* and *Sociologia Ruralis*.



We meet at 11am on the first Friday of every month. If you'd like to find out more, or join us, please email Aimee at [aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk](mailto:aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk) or message on Twitter [@06aims](https://twitter.com/06aims).

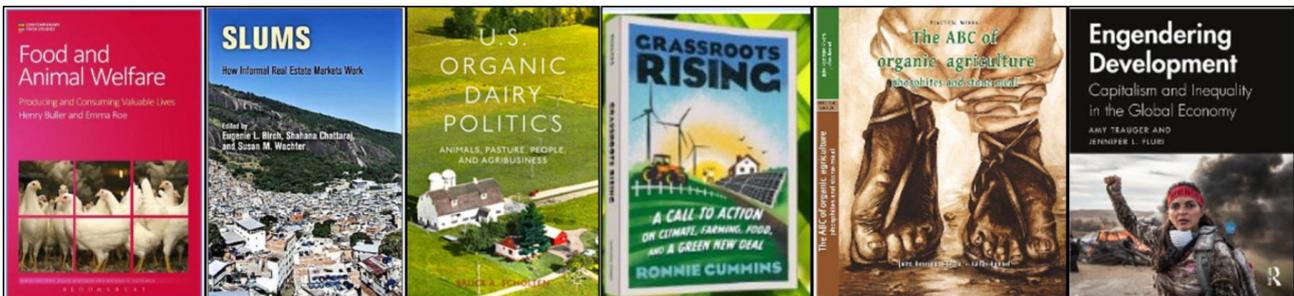
# RURAL GEOGRAPHY BOOK CLUB

**first Friday of the month at 11.00am**

Email [aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk](mailto:aimeemorse@connect.glos.ac.uk) for more information



**PUBLICATIONS!** Nominate your own or colleagues' books for RGRG Publications page: <https://rrg.co.uk/publications>

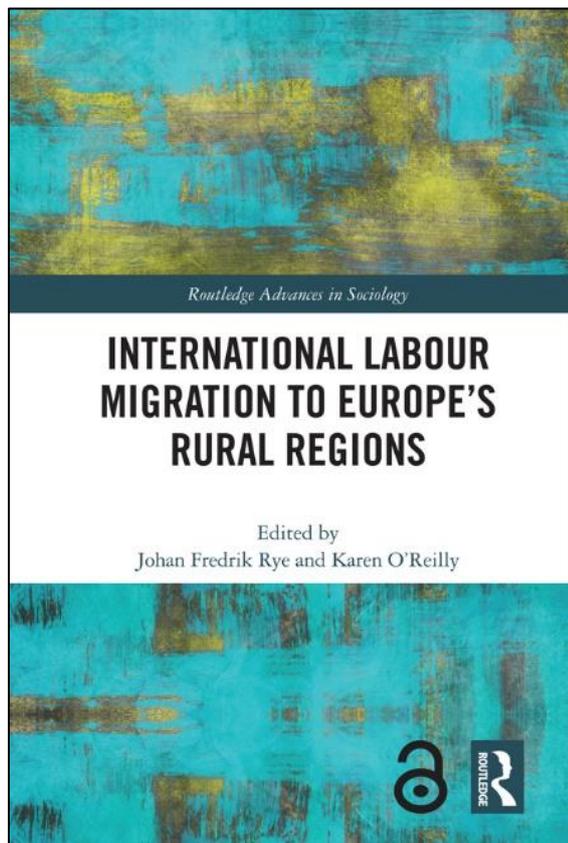


**BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS?** <https://rrg.co.uk/publications>

## 8. BOOKS

**International Labour Migration to Europe's Rural Regions.** Edited by Johan Fredrik Rye, Karen O'Reilly

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/e/9781003022367>; eBook ISBN 9781003022367. Subjects: Development Studies, Economics, Finance, Business & Industry, Geography, Politics & International Relations, Social Sciences.



**Dr Halfacree (@swanseageog) writes:**  
**A 2016 referendum in the United Kingdom narrowly voted for the country to leave the European Union, a decision labelled Brexit. This chapter explores some potential consequences of Brexit for the rural UK and its people under four headings.**



**First**, from an economic angle, withdrawal from the Common Agricultural Policy and other EU support for rural businesses is evaluated. **Second**, Brexit's likely reduction in numbers of EU-originating international labour migrants, both seasonal and longer term, is discussed and shown as already having impacts, especially noted for certain types of agriculture work. **Third**, and thinking to the future, attention focuses on how international labour migrants' everyday lives within the rural may change with Brexit, especially in terms of settlement in place. **Fourth**, and drawing previous analysis together, it is proposed that a 'revanchist rural' expression has grown in the UK with Brexit. This further challenge the status of and ambition for the UK countryside to be a diverse, welcoming, and modern space, not least for labour migrants.

**Editor, RGRG Newsletter: One of our mainstays, Dr Keith Halfacree has penned a timely piece in our present Brexit-Covid-19 unpleasantness, aka tragedy.**

His chapter in this edited volume, titled "If we do not have the pickers, we do not have the industry" - Rural UK under a Brexit shadow', treats a labour issue plaguing ruralities in rich countries affected by populist and nativist policies that leave food rotting in fields and orchards, dairy farms short of milkers – and hospitals and retirement homes understaffed. President-elect Joe Biden and VP-elect Kamala Harris will attempt immigration reform which could improve US-Mexico relations. Employment opportunities and remittances could improve well-being in both countries.

For a report on a Durham academic-stakeholder Brexit discussion see *RGRG Newsletter* (Scholten 2017): 38-39: <https://rgrg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/RGRG-News-Summer-2017.pdf>.

**Routledge Press Release:** Emerging in the throes of a global pandemic that threatens Europe's economies and food security, *International Labour Migration to Europe's Rural Regions* combines a diverse range of empirically rich, in-depth case studies, analysis of their rural context specificities, and insights from labour market and migration theories, to critically examine the conditions and implications of rural labour migration.

Despite its growing political, economic and social importance, our understanding of international labour migration to Europe's rural regions remains limited. This edited volume provides intricate descriptions of lived experience, critical theoretical analyses, analytical synthesis, and policy recommendations for this novel and developing phenomenon that has the potential to transform the lives of international migrants and local communities.

The book's 25 authors represent a wide range of social science disciplines, with coverage of a vast range of Europe's rural regions, and diverse types of rural labour in areas such as horticulture, shepherding, wild berry picking and fish processing. The volume will be of interest to policy makers at local, regional, national and European levels, and scholars and students in a broad range of areas, including migration, labour markets, and rural studies.

**This book is available for free in PDF format as Open Access from the individual product page at [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com).**

**Books continue...**

## **Cherished Plan: The Story of Puck's Hut at Benmore. By David Gray.**

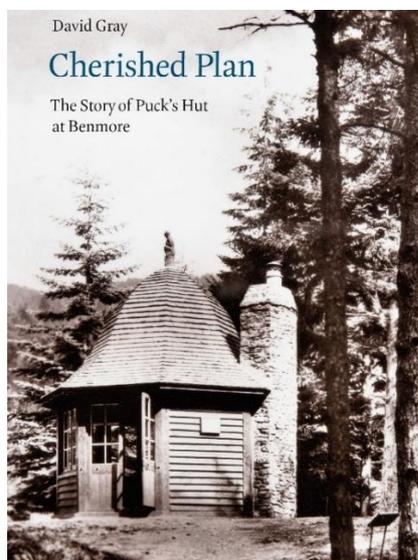
**Reviewed by Dr Charles Howie**

<charles\_a\_howie@hotmail.com>

£8 from [Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh](https://rbgeshop.org/products/cherished-plan-the-story-of-pucks-hut-at-benmore),

20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR.

ISBN 978-1-910877-35-7. <https://rbgeshop.org/products/cherished-plan-the-story-of-pucks-hut-at-benmore>



**Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour, was a towering figure in the world of botany and the promotion of Britain's forests in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Puck's Hut (see illustration) was opened in 1928 at Benmore as a celebration and memorial to his life.**

This book, a description of how it came to be built, sets out some of the things he did and why we should know more about him. With [COP26](#) due in Glasgow next year it is appropriate to draw attention now to this most energetic and visionary scholar who was a driving force in working for better national recognition of the value of forests through, for example, the establishment of the Forestry Commission and the Botanic Garden at Benmore.



**The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)**, of which Sir Isaac was Regius Keeper 1888-1922, celebrates its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It began as a physic garden close to Holyrood Palace but now consists of four gardens located across central and south west Scotland (Edinburgh, Benmore in Argyll, Logan in Dumfries and Galloway, and Dawyck in the Scottish Borders) which are renowned not just as places to enjoy but, less visibly, for their international work in capacity building and scientific research.

Benmore Garden is situated near Dunoon in Argyll and accessible 90 minutes from Glasgow. It houses representatives of about half the world's endangered conifers, while the herbarium in Edinburgh contains around three million records, representing between half and two-thirds of the world's documented flora. At a time when we better understand the value of trees, not just for their beauty and economic importance to rural life, but also their indispensable role in retaining water, reducing flooding and mitigating climate change via carbon capture and storage, this book celebrates one of Scotland's giants in the botanical and arboricultural world. One of the great achievements of the RBGE is helping countries write floras, for if countries do not know the extent of their botanical resources how can they value them? Floras of Nepal and Bhutan are recent publications.

**Isaac Balfour (1853-1922)** was the son of John Hutton Balfour (1808-1884), also a Regius Keeper, and was raised in the environs of the Edinburgh garden. By the age of 26 he was Professor of Botany at Glasgow University, followed by a four-year period as Sherardian Professor of Botany at Oxford before returning to Edinburgh in 1888 as University Professor of Botany and Keeper of the Garden, formidable achievements by the age of 35. By then he had also written the *Botany of Socotra* and established a [Winter Garden](#) in Glasgow Botanic Garden.

**As President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1894, Balfour called for increased tree planting** 'as forests reduce the extremes of temperature of the air; they protect and control the water flow from the soil'. He also discovered the absorptive and antiseptic properties of dried Sphagnum moss; by 1918 over one million dressings per month were being used in British hospitals, and for this work he was recognized with a knighthood. Should you be fortunate to visit Benmore you will see this remarkable building set amidst one of Scotland's most spectacular arboreta.



Sequoiadendron giganteum, Redwood Avenue, Benmore.  
Thanks for photo via Sandra Donnelly, RBGE.

## 9. Arbor brevis – Ars longa: Prof. Ewan Anderson’s Tree Drawings

Appreciating trees, trails, cattle and food & flower reciprocity – by B.A. Scholten



**Hope you’re safe whilst we await Covid-19 vaccine.** North of Durham Market Place, people in lockdown relish chances to walk – facemasks held high – a few minutes down trails to 900-year-old Kepier Hospital Farm on River Wear. Seeing 100 cows, heifers, bulls and sheep enjoy grazing on grass from here to Finchale Priory relieves human stress, too.

**As Claypath Delicatessan converted from inside dining to take-out,** residents turned to their own ovens, baking bread, biscuits, pasties, pies, scones, etc. I gave Béchamel-Gruyère-Chorizo-Brinjal-Spinach-Organic Lamb-Lasagne (proportions of mustard, nutmeg & paprika are crucial) to neighbours & got a surprise. **Prof. Ewan Anderson**, retired Durham geopolitician, returned the gesture with a handful of the cards for which he’s famous. He is a polymath, but his arboreal passion for tree drawing trees dominates treks in Durham and Yorkshire with wife Sian.

**Ewan Anderson** (with Martha & Bruce Scholten; pic by Heather Speight) explained his current project: ‘**The rarest British native tree is the True Service Tree. There are thought to be only 3, all progeny of the original, in the North of England. I have just added blogs for my database... They contain an explanation of the original.**’

## Tree drawings

by Ewan Anderson



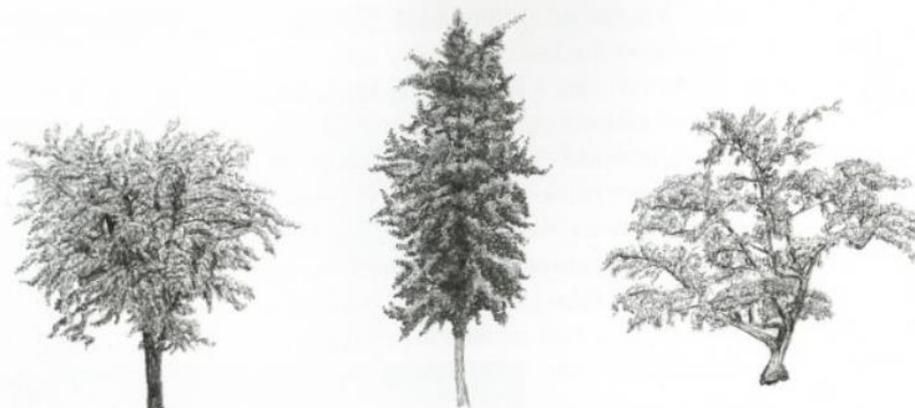
Ewan Anderson’s arboreal art. \* <http://www.tree-drawings.co.uk/> \* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewan\\_Anderson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewan_Anderson)

*“The most fortunate situation”: The Story of York’s Museum Gardens*  
by Peter Hogarth and Ewan Anderson (2018)

The history of York is the history of England and the history of the Museum Gardens is the history of York. From a city dumping ground to a monastic garden to, in 1928, a botanic garden, the Museum Gardens have expanded and developed. The purpose has evolved from exclusively scientific to include horticulture and leisure. There is a rich and varied plant collection underpinned by an Arboretum with a range of rare trees. The book includes 12 of Ewan’s tree drawings.

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Chapter Ten



- RGRG Newsletter



**Ever had too much fun? RGRG Newsletter needs a new editor after Summer 2021...**

**RGRG NEWSLETTER FORMAT**

Email editor: [bruce.scholten@bopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.scholten@bopenworld.com) on Subject line: RGRG News



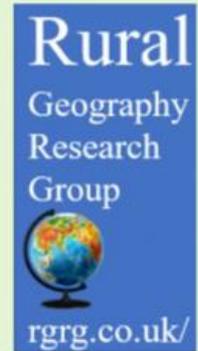
*Thanks for interest in RGRG Newsletter. Postgrads to profs welcome to email +/- 300 words text & pix on news, books, or fieldnotes – especially on Life in the Time of Covid-19.*

**Please consider tips from WEA Journalism Workshop:**

- \* Newsletters are about *Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why?*
- \* **Include author & email, dates, venue & weblinks for reader's next step.**
- \* Credit photos or copyright, e.g. (Snowdonia National Park 2020).
- \* **Attach documents with simple filenames, e.g. (Author-BookRev-19may20.doc).**
- \* Attach photos e.g. (Author-Headshot-19may20.jpg).
- \* **Don't assume editor 'knows' all. Check details & spelling!**
- \* Read [rgrg.co.uk/newsletter](http://rgrg.co.uk/newsletter) articles by Dorice Agol, Charles Howie & Felipe de Silva.

**RGRG Newsletter needs a new Editor by 2021. Two annual issues do not require too much time. The next editor can jump into established format, then customise.**

*It's fun!* Email me, Aimee Morse, Megan Palmer-Abbs or Martin Phillips.  
Bruce Scholten, Editor: <https://rgrg.co.uk/newsletter>  
**Rural Geography Research Group – A Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)**



\*

**Royal Geographical Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography and geographical learning

**It's Thanksgiving Day in USA, Nov 26, 2020 – a year so nice they named it twice.**  
Globally, colleagues, friends & family have suffered from Covid-19. But homo sapiens have seen worse.  
We are lucky with geographical work, and social media to communicate, despite lock-downs.  
**RGRG anticipates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. Hope for political progress & the vaccine cavalry.**



On the US-Canadian border, dairy families weather 100 mph blizzards from the Yukon. (Bas 2007)

- RGRG Newsletter