

RGS-IBG Social and Cultural Geography Research Group

Annual Report 2010

Summary

- The group membership email list stands at 459 members.
- The SCGRG was £3,048.67 in credit on the 31st December 2010. There are several items of large expenditure pending, for the Geography and New Empirics conference and workshop bursaries. The SCGRG expects to take a balance of approximately £2,000 into the main period of the year for 2011.
- In the calendar year 2010, the group sponsored and co-sponsored 12 themed sessions at the RGS-IBG conference.
- Supported by a successful Research Group Grant, the SCGRG provided support for a conference on the 'Geographies of Religion: a new dialogue', Newcastle University, 8-9 March 2010. This was convened by Peter Hopkins.
- Through its 'events fund' the SCGRG was also able to provide bursaries for SCGRG members to attend conferences on Salty Geographies, organised by William Hasty, and a symposium on Urban Green Space, organised by Nadia Von Benzoni.
- In 2010, the SCGRG also launched its undergraduate dissertation prize, with the first prize awarded to Kaleigh Jones (University of Oxford) and the second prize awarded to Emma Bonny (University of Nottingham).
- The SCGRG has continued to improve its web presence at <http://scgrg.org/>, with subscriptions for members to receive automatic web updates. We also launched a facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rgs-lbg-Social-and-Cultural-Geography-Research-Group/122405437827911>
- The SCGRG has already successfully held and sponsored two events for 2011: a workshop and conference on 'Geography and the New Empirics' (20/21st of January 2011) and provided bursaries for a workshop on the 6/7th of January on 'Space and Irigaray' (6/7th January) organised by Sarah Cant (Oxford Brookes) and Rachel Colls (Durham). Further details of these events will be reported in the annual report for 2011.
- Thanks to everyone who has contributed to these events and provided further information for this report.
- Finally, the SCGRG committee has chosen, for the time being, to replace its regular home page with a statement on tuition fees (<http://www.scgrg.org/>). This is reproduced in full below. The mission statement is now available elsewhere on the website.

In place of our regular mission statement, and in the context of UK cuts in higher education and the associated rise in tuition fees, the SCGRG would like to issue the following statement:

The committee of the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (RGS-IBG) would like to express their personal support for the geographers and other students who have sought to open up creative spaces to challenge the inevitability of such rapid and deep public spending cuts in higher education. Our position is that creative, innovative thinking is critical to social and ecological justice, and the stripping away of the intellectual capacity of higher education, through the removal of public funding for teaching and its replacement with a market for students and for knowledge, is detrimental to the achievement of more equitable ways of thinking and living.

"To illustrate the importance of knowledge sharing, I would like to tell you a little lesson in economics: I have a block of butter, and you have three Euros. If we proceed to do a transaction, you will, in the end, have a block of butter, and I will have three Euros. We are dealing with a zero sum game: nothing happens from this exchange. But in the exchange of knowledge, during teaching, the game is not one of zero sum as more parties profit from the exchange: if you know a theorem and teach it to me, at the end of the exchange, we both know it. In this knowledge exchange there is no equilibrium at all, but a terrific growth which economics does not know. Teachings are the bearers of an unbelievable treasure – knowledge – which multiplies and is the treasure of all humanity." (Michel Serres)

Gail Davies (Chair) and the rest of the committee. With thanks to Angela Last for translation.

1. AGM and Committee Membership 2010

The AGM was held at the RGS-IBG Conference, at the RGS, Thursday 2nd September 2010 at 13.10. The meeting was well attended. The minutes of the meeting are available on-line at <http://scgrg.org/meetings/>.

There were several changes to the committee at the summer meeting. The committee thanked Louise Holt for her work as Treasurer and David Crouch for his contributions to the committee from 2007-2010. New appointments were confirmed with Elaine Ho as Treasurer and Owain Jones on the committee. Those present thanked the following for their committee work over the last year, particularly Emma Roe for her work on setting up the new dissertation prize and Russell Hitchings for his work as secretary.

The current full committee is as follows:

- Gail Davies (Chair)
- Russell Hitchings (Secretary)
- Elaine Ho (Treasurer)
- Ben Anderson
- Chris Bear (Membership Secretary)
- Kate Boyer
- Harriet Hawkins
- Owain Jones
- Jo Norcup (Education co-ordinator)
- Emma Roe (Dissertation Prize co-ordinator)
- Amanda Rogers
- Alex Tan (Postgraduate Representative)

The Group also met for a planning meeting at the AAG in Washington DC in April 2010. The SCGRG funds were used to provide lunch to committee members planning the 'Geography and New Empirics' Event.

2. RGS Annual Conference Sessions, London 2010

The SCGRG was delighted to sponsor and co-sponsor 12 events at the 2010 RGS-IBG Annual Conference. It was the sole sponsor for three sessions on 'Geography and the Future' organised by Ben Anderson and Peter Adey on Friday, and two paper sessions on 'Geography and Twentieth Century British Poetry' and a poetry reading organised by Amy Cutler. The full list, including all sponsored and co-sponsored sessions, is below.

1. Absence: Materiality, embodiment, resistance
2. Children, young people and 'sustainability'
3. Citizens-in-becoming? New spaces of parenting, early childhood and welfare
4. Geography and the Future
5. Geography and Twentieth Century British Poetry
6. Getting away from it all – Embodied practices and engagements with the 'natural'
7. Innovative Spaces of Learning
8. Lifestyle Mobilities and Corporealities: Intersections and Issues
9. Places without a place: The geographies of ships
10. Social and Cultural Geographies of the Coasts
11. Travelling faith: exploring the intersections of religion and migration
12. Youth geographies of in/civility

Session organisers were asked to provide feedback on the sessions. We are very grateful to all who contributed to making these sessions such a success and providing these. Some reports have been edited for space. For full details of abstracts, see <http://scgrg.org/conference/>.

2.1. Absence. Materiality, Embodiment, Resistance: Lars Frers, Lars Meier and Erika Sigvardsdotter

The three organisers of the double session “Absence. Materiality, Embodiment, Resistance” engage with the intersections of the material and emotional qualities of absence, focussing on the fact that absence is all but a void, manifesting itself in concrete places, people and things; that it is embodied and enacted. Seven researchers presented their empirical work in relation to this topic. These presentations were then discussed by Mike Crang and Tim Edensor which resulted in further keen and productive contributions and a lively discussion. Approximately 40 people have participated in the session and we are happy to report that the participation in the discussions was diverse, including both junior and senior members of the audience and many people who did not present themselves.

The absence-presence tension has been analysed along two thematic lines. On the first, “People and Embodiment”, Erika Sigvardsdotter (Uppsala University) discussed resistance and tactics of undocumented migrants in Sweden. James Thurgill (Royal Holloway) put his focus on materialisation of absence in the practices of ghost hunters. The ways in which the emotions, memory and materiality of absence through death is expressed and negotiated in different sorts of spaces was the topic of Avril Maddrell’s (University of the West of England) presentation. Sadly, Beatrice Jauregui (University of Pennsylvania) could not make it to the conference. We used the additional time for an extended discussion at the end of the session – which helped to establish a good discursive mood. Within the stream “Places and Memory” Owain Jones (Countryside & Community Research Institute) considered experiences and practices of a lost farm landscape in a self-reflexive way. Lars Meier (Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg) continued to study feelings of loss, focussing on Metalworkers’ memories and sense of belonging. Dominique Fliegler (Bauhaus University Weimar) focussed on traces of absence that can be read in landscapes of former German settlements in the Czech Republic. The last contribution before the concluding discussion came from Caitlin DeSilvey (University of Exeter), who shed light on the aesthetics of absence within landscape created by the copper mining industry.

The organisers of these sessions are very thankful for two sets of insightful presentations and the valuable input provided by the two discussants and by the audience. With the support of the research groups PolGRG, HPGRG and SCGRG the chance to develop an international, dynamic and productive conference stream has been realised. We are looking forward to develop this topic further (in a special issue or an edited volume) and we want to express our gratitude to all participants, supporters and sponsors who have made this double session possible.

2.2. Children, young people and ‘sustainability’

No report submitted.

2.3. Citizens-in-becoming? New spaces of parenting, early childhood and welfare: Eleanor Jupp (Open University) and Phoebe Foy-Phillips (University of Reading)

The sessions aimed to explore spaces of ‘parenting’ within everyday life, and how these spaces intersect with policy regimes and media representations. We were both particularly interested in recent UK policy regimes which have focused on the early years of childhood and parenting as a crucial aspect of welfare intervention, perhaps in the hope of shaping ‘citizens in becoming’ (Lister 2006). In fact the abstracts received and papers presented covered a wider range of contexts and stages of parenting than this. The papers were divided into two sessions, at which there were approximately 30 attendees. Topics ranged from discourse analysis of policy (Murray) to evaluations of UK policy interventions and spaces (Jupp, Percy-Smith, Rose, Foy-Phillips) as well as two papers on parenting in African contexts, Zambia (Day) and South Africa (Meth). Presenters and attendees agreed that the sessions presented the ways in which social and cultural geography and related disciplines can make a particular contribution to debates on parenting, through drawing attention to the everyday, small-scale practices and spaces in which ‘big’ policy, economic and cultural shifts are played out. Geographical approaches can also highlight the role of ‘place’ in shaping parenting practices and experiences. Conversely taking

debates about parenting into social and cultural geography brings into focus underlying social and political concerns around inequality, material poverty and power. Within this area of study emotions were seen to play a critical role in relation to experiences of spaces, including anxiety, fear, 'riskiness', and ideas of 'stigmatised' spaces, of 'institutional' spaces, 'liminal' spaces and 'homely' spaces. We discussed how far framing issues via 'parenting' moves debates away from gendered notions of care or not and the issues involved in bringing research from the Global North and South into dialogue. There is interest in a special issue or publication arising from the session, as well as potential further research collaboration around the spatialities of parenting, but these have not yet been developed.

2.4. Geography and the Future: Ben Anderson (Durham University) and Peter Adey (Keele University)

The 'Geography and the Future' sessions aimed to interrogate the relations between specific substantive geographies and different relations with the future. Despite or perhaps because of the range of work on the presence of the past, questions of the future have received less attention. Work on memory and haunting has dominated the literature on geographies of temporality (save for exceptions around utopianism and planning). This is surprising given how substantive geographies are constantly being made in relation to, and through the presence of, futures. Futures are; calculated in financial capitalism; pre-empted in security; planned for in urban design; feared in relation to climate change, imagined as risks; speculated on in science innovation; hoped for in biodiversity conservation; presumed in some development narratives, and anticipated in relation to inflation, to name but some of the relations with the future that papers in the sessions engaged with. Against this background the set of three sessions aimed to open up a more explicit consideration of the future. 'The future' acted as a theme drawing together a diverse range of empirical topics and theoretical orientations. The 15 papers addressed four questions: how do we recognise the relations to the future that are embedded in our own work; how do we experiment with alternative relations to the future outside of linear or cyclical temporality and what theoretical sources exist to help us (ranging from queer theory to Machiavelli); how do we pay attention to, and learn to describe, the presence of the future in specific substantive geographies; and finally how do we understand the processes whereby contemporary life is governed through the future (examples ranging from biotechnology through to new forms of security). The papers cut across a range of sub-disciplines, bringing together people around a theme who might not ordinarily engage with one another. Each of the three sessions was very well attended with the allocated room over capacity for two of the sessions. In short, the sessions were a great success and exceeded our expectations. Organising a session around a theme, rather than a particular theory or substantive issue, enabled conversations across different areas of geography to develop. A selection of the papers are currently under consideration with Environment and Planning A as part of a special issue on the theme of 'Governing the Future'. This theme issue will address a) how life is governed by speculating or calculating futures b) how anticipatory logics and techniques differ in how they relate to the future and c) what implications these processes have for how geographers could and should relate to the future.

2.5. Geography and Twentieth Century British Poetry: Amy Cutler (RHUL)

Language is a tool that has developed through and alongside the struggle to articulate the meanings of place. Poetry can be used as an experimental or self-conscious form to reflect upon this linguistic construction of the earth – and it is the cultural geographer's business to reveal the politics and mechanics of just such cultural representations. This set of sessions was designed to explore such issues to do with landscape and twentieth century poetry. It took Hayden Lorimer's (2008) remarks about the growing attraction between geographers and the discipline of poetry as a jumping off point, and narrowed the focus to the British Isles. The aim was to gather eclectic viewpoints; of the eight papers and four poetry readings, this included papers on authors (such as Stephen Ross's paper on Ronald Johnson's *Book of the Green Man*), and papers on specific locations (such as Owain Jones' paper on the Severn Estuary). Topics covered included archaeology, dialect, and continental drift, while cartography was a particular focal point for the papers, in both the political sense (as in Coilin Parsons' paper on Yeats and the Ordnance Survey Map, and Alex Latter's on Jeremy Prynne's use of a line map of the oil-fields of north east England) and the experimental sense (in David Cooper's paper on

GIS technology and contemporary poetry of the Lake District). The chairing by Ian Davidson (*Ideas of Space in Contemporary Poetry* 2007) and John Wylie (*Landscape* 2007) opened up the discussion to geographical questions, and the evening poetry readings (by Frances Presley, Tilla Brading, Ian Davidson, Peter Riley, and Allen Fisher) were balanced with topographical explanations and multi-media presentations.

This unconventional event mixed scholars of different backgrounds and the Q&A in particular raised some interesting questions about interdisciplinary inhibitions. These are being followed up at a 'Geography and Twentieth Century British Poetry' roundtable to be held in Bedford Square on the 30th November, with thanks to Landscape Surgery. This will be a more informal set of conversations intended to provoke discussion based on the earlier papers, but also to evolve this into wider questions about literary geography. This aims to evaluate the 'interdisciplinary attraction' in terms of the usefulness of each discipline to the other, and also the fall out when combining two different sets of methodologies and principles. The transcripts of this conversation are pencilled in for publication in *Cultural Geographies* in 2011.

2.6. Getting away from it all: embodied practices and engagements with the 'natural': Paul Barratt (Hull) and Leila Dawney (Exeter)

These sessions examined some of the multiple claims that are made about the restorative properties of "getting back to the environment" (Eden 2009: 2037), and the promotion of outdoor practices as a logical step to fulfil a diverse range of policy objectives. We were interested in how outdoor practices themselves may be associated with discourses of health, well-being, romanticism, nationhood, gender, individualism and social class: the intertextual cultures, technologies and practices which shape embodied experience of the outdoors. This two-part session emerged from a day out from the AAG in 2009 to Red Rock Canyon, just outside Las Vegas, where we saw a sign that simply stated "wilderness boundary" – an unequivocal statement by the US Land Management Bureau. This prompted us to consider the multiple subjective understandings of engaging with 'nature'. Despite the session organisers' self confessed interest in sporting outdoor pursuits, the call for papers was kept deliberately wide in order to encourage contributions from diverse theoretical and substantive areas. These sessions welcomed papers upon many differing types of engagements with, and understandings of, the 'natural', ranging from, 'natural' treatments at the spa, green burials, to engagements with bears in the forests of British Columbia. The papers came from a number of different theoretical perspectives, including phenomenology, historical geography, social geography, rhythm-analysis as well as policy-focused papers.

Another aim of the session was to explore the notion that the environment we are getting back to is an increasingly technologised one in which we are equipped with, and surrounded by, ever more sophisticated (but often mundane) socio-technical assemblages with myriad experiential possibilities. The papers that tackled this issue illustrated that developments in the technologies of outdoor apparel and equipment offer new ways of thinking about the relationship between bodies and landscapes, where tensions between comfort and discomfort, and the manipulation of capacities of bodies are played out through the mediation of various technologies. Papers concerning walking, mountain biking, diving and kayaking all raised these issues, prompting questions and debate over differing socio-technical engagements and the extent to which technologies such as GPSs and 'smart phones' inflect our practices in the outdoors. The two sessions included 9 different papers from contributors across the UK and Europe. One paper was successfully delivered via Skype due to a missed flight. Unfortunately an unadvertised room change and error in the conference programme affected the number of people attending the session. However, both were well attended with approximately 45 in the first session and 35 in the second. On the whole the sessions were a great success and brought together a number of academics working on diverse but mutually informative topics and approaches. Attendees engaged with each of the papers during lively and productive question and answers, and those who we spoke to afterwards had thoroughly enjoyed metaphorically 'getting away from it all' at the RGS/IBG.

2.7. Innovative Spaces of Learning

No report submitted.

2.8. Lifestyle Mobilities and Corporealities: Intersections and Issues: Scott Cohen (University of Bournemouth) and Tara Duncan (University of Otago)

This session originally consisted of five papers. Although two of the papers had to withdraw before the conference, the session still offered three really interesting presentations. The theme of the session was to begin to focus on ideas of lifestyle mobilities and highlight how these socio-cultural phenomena can be viewed through an (im)mobilities lens. The session had links with other sessions at the conference, such as the three sessions entitled 'Migration Blurrings: Exploring the Social and Orientated Motives for Mobility and Migration' and the session "Living on the Move: Finding and Maintaining Stability through Movement". There was an overlap of audience members and these links helped stimulate discussions which saw themes from the various sessions being pulled through to this session, specifically around ideas of the body and mobility. The first presentation from Elizabeth Mavroudi (Loughborough University) discussed the ideas behind the hopefully notion of empowerment through the reading of eight books by women writers on the Australian outback. Her analysis provided an insight into how these women's mobility highlighted challenges in and through their environments. Her discussion focussed on how these women's mobility allowed a process of empowerment where they knowingly created changes/challenges for themselves and chose to write about their experiences. This was followed by Amandine Chapuis' (University Paris, France) discussion of the experiences of young French tourists on their first major independent travel experience to Amsterdam. This paper illustrated how these young people were very aware of their sense of self and how they negotiated this through, at times, an unfamiliar environment. The third paper, from Ariel Terranova-Webb (Open University) utilised an auto-ethnographic approach to consider how life among a circus impacted on the author's corporeal experiences. The paper demonstrated how a re-reading of field notes and the research diary allowed the author to re-frame her experiences within a different mobilities structure than that of stable mobility through which she had positioned the wider study on which this paper was based.

The audience for the papers consisted of approximately 15 people (with a few people coming and going between papers). The questions asked of each presenter were insightful and engaging and provided the speakers with the opportunity to expand on some of their ideas and thoughts. Overall, the papers illustrated how the concept of mobilities is performed and enacted in various ways and the session's cohesion came about through the both these differences but also the similarities in understanding the wider, more affective possibilities behind the concept of mobilities. This session was co-sponsored by the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group and the Geography of Leisure and Tourism Research Group and we would like to thank both groups for their support. We are aiming to further develop this topic at a similar session at the 2011 RGS-IBG conference and through the publication of an edited book (part of a series being put together by the GLTRG) in 2012. We would also like to thank all of the presenters and participants without whom the session would not have been possible.

The group is currently sponsoring or co-sponsoring 10 sessions at the 2010 RGS-IBG in London for which calls for papers have been circulated. See <http://scgrg.org/2009/12/2010-rgs-conference-sessions/>. As ever, we received more session proposals than we were able to sponsor. On this occasion, we have had to make the difficult decision to turn down six groups who came to us for sponsorship. The ones selected by the group were felt to reflect the particular strengths and diversity of the group. However, the committee continues to be concerned that the number of sessions/modules which it is able to sponsor is relatively small in the context of the group's membership.

2.9. 'Places without a place': the geographies of ships: William Hasty (University of Glasgow) and Kimberley Peters (RHUL)

The two sessions 'Places without a place': the geographies of ships, co-sponsored by the SCGRG, were concerned with opening up ship spaces to critical geographical enquiry in view of the recent turn in research towards the sea (Lambert et al, 2006; Steinberg, 1999, 2001). Indeed although geographers have begun to think quite seriously about the social and cultural geographies of ocean space (its representations, textures, shapes and social construction), the

ship has gained rather less attention in spite of being the 'most ancient and most modern of spaces' (Casarino 2002: 10). Our session brought together eight diverse papers which had at their heart, social and cultural investigations of ships, in an effort to take seriously these often forgotten sea-based spaces. Indeed, our sessions speakers discussed a 'Deep Ethnography' of diving on ship wreck sites (Stephanie Merchant, University of Exeter), an extensive ethnography of the time-space routines of ferry travellers (Phillip Vannini, Royal Roads University, BC) and an ethnographical journey concerned with sea-faring memories in Tilbury dockyard (Kimberley Peters, Royal Holloway). The spatiality of the ship to relation to the geographies of piracy (William Hasty, University of Glasgow) and the production of geographical knowledge through the journeys of ships was explored (Anne-Flore Laloe, University of Exeter), alongside a discussion of indentured labour and the ship (Nalini Mohabir, University of Leeds) and the onboard politics of Lascar communities (Aaron Jaffer, University of Warwick). The final paper explored the liners of the 1930s and the ways in which fashions, cultures and traditions were transported trans-Atlanticly with these voyages (Bronwen Edwards, Leeds Metropolitan University). Our session ended with insightful discussant comments from Dr. David Lambert.

The sessions had an international array of scholars, from various disciplines (notably maritime historians alongside geographers) and explored ships on a global scale, in the past and in the present. In each session attendance was high (roughly 40-43 people attended each session). Given the success of the afternoon, we have two major outputs to note. Firstly, as organisers we will be co-authoring a paper, commissioned by the journal *Geography Compass*, in which will review the geographies of ships and make suggestions for future study. Secondly, we are co-convening a roundtable event to follow up the RGS-IBG session, in March 2011, at Royal Holloway, University of London. Here we are inviting speakers back to give longer papers in view of developing a special issue for a journal.

2.10. Social and Cultural Geographies of the Coasts

No report submitted.

2.11. Travelling faith: exploring the intersections of religion and migration: Claire Dwyer (UCL) and Betsy Olson (University of Edinburgh)

These sessions were organised to explore the diverse intersections between religion and migration. In organising them we were responding to both the recent resurgence of interest in geographies of religion (Yorgason & dell Dora 2009) and to an emerging focus on religion in migration studies, including work by geographers (Olson & Silvey 2006). Within these sessions were interested in the ways in which religious practices and faith identities travel with migrants and shape their experiences of transnational lives or how new religious engagements may be produced through the migration experience. We were also interested in how faith travels and the ways in which religious organisations and institutions are incorporated into or shape migration trajectories and flows. There were two sessions although each had only 3 papers in due to last minute withdrawals of overseas participants.

In the first session papers by Suha Shakkour, Dept of Geography, University of St Andrews on 'The Christian Palestinians and Arabic Church in London', Dr Ann David, Dept of Dance Studies, Roehampton University on 'Embodied migrations: socio-cultural and religious practices of diasporic Tamils in Greater London' and Imogen Wallace, Department of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London on 'Religion, home and identity: exploring the 'making of home' by Somali women in Bristol' were presented. These papers foregrounded the significance of faith practices and the building of faith communities for migrant groups in the UK while also raising questions about how new forms of faith practice were animated and embodied (and notably the significance of new roles for women) through the migratory process – for example the role of the internet in opening up spaces of religious identification and new forms of cyber worship for Somali Muslim women as well as the re-working of vernacular forms of Tamil worship in the diaspora. In the second session papers by Gayle Munro, from the Research & Development Unit, The Salvation Army, UK & Department of Geography, University College London and Fleur Bragaglia from the Research & Development Unit, The Salvation Army, UK on 'Interpretations of Salvationism: international and UK contexts of The Salvation Army's expressions of faith', by Dr Kyle Roberts, Department of History, QMUL, on 'Exploring the

Spiritual Self: Travel Narratives as Conversion Narratives in Early Republic New York City' and by Mukesh Bhatt, Department of Law, Birkbeck, University of London on 'Histories of migration and the role of religion: the case of sea travel and the Dharma Shastra.' These papers developed the theme of travelling faiths in wider directions with Bhatt and Munro and Bragaglia's paper raising questions about how different faiths are reinterpreted or contested in different geographical contexts while Roberts paper reflected on metaphors of travel and faith in a close reading of one 19th Century American evangelical narrative.

In her discussant comments, Claire Dwyer drew attention to the transformations of space which are sometimes produced through migration; new sacred sites of pilgrimage; new places of worship; making new places sacred – streets, parks, homes; using existing religious buildings differently as migrants (Somali women going to mosque, the shared churches). Imogen's paper raised fascinating insights into the role of cyberspaces and sonic spaces as Islam is practised at home but through the internet. There were also new spaces of the body – embodied religious practice which is done differently in diaspora. The discussion of new sacred spaces also raised questions about institutional incorporation – about how spaces are 'produced' as sacred sites – either by practice or indeed by legal incorporation as 'officially sacred'. Dwyer also raised the question of how discourses of travel or journeying are mobilised and linked this to the interdisciplinary question of 'travelling theories' suggesting that the session was diverse and rich in comparison whether of place/religion/history. The sessions had a good turn out and the space provided by absent papers meant that there was time for plenty of questions and some lively debate. The session has provoked a further two sessions which will be co-organised by Claire, Betsy and Justin Tse at the AAG in Seattle in 2011 which we hope will form the basis of a future special issue.

2.12. Youth geographies of in/civility: Donna M. Brown (Scottish Institute for Policing Research) and Matej Blazek (University of Dundee)

The 'Youth geographies of in/civility' session focused on the debates about the relationship between social construction of 'youth' and 'childhood' and the notions of 'in/civility', and their geographical circumstances. The aim of the session was to explore how are children and young people controlled and regulated using both formal and informal mechanisms, how they contest and negotiate these mechanisms through their own discourses and practices, and how significant is the spatial dimension of such constraints at a time of increased surveillance of young people from a diverse range of actors, as well as of tighter control of public and shared spaces. The session consisted of four papers and a discussant's piece with the attendance of about 25-30 persons. The papers explored relationships between the notions of in/civility and practices of (self)regulation, both from the perspective of young people, and of adults and their formal institutional structures. Spaces and spatialities of the regulatory mechanisms and the discursive formations of in/civility in relationship to young people stood at the centre of the presented papers.

Therese Lützelberger's presentation compared young people's perspectives of leaving their parental home in Germany and Italy, and showed how the notion of civility is related to different (and even contrasting) views of residential independence, social adaptability and identity formation of young people, all going beyond the economic context (or the lack of) of the parental support. Marguerite Soulière explored how male adolescents connect their lived experiences of growing up with and against dominant regulatory and interpretative frameworks of adults, and she used spatial categories of home, school and 'adolescent territories' to examine different pathways and embodied experiences of growing up. Emma Davidson's paper focused on the interface of contact between detached youth workers and their 'hard to reach' young clients. From the perspective of young people's experiences, her presentation critically examined the boundaries between support and regulation of young people through detached street youth work, and discussed how new and perhaps unnoticed notions of incivility are constituted in this process. Kirsten Owen's paper explored the links between dominant discourses of young people's incivility and their material expressions and policy practices, and stressed the divides and potential exclusions that discourses about incivility might instigate. The papers were then discussed by Graeme Tiffany who focused on the processual constitution of public space, on the role that young people might (or might not) take in it, and he illustrated his talk with examples from different geographical and cultural settings.

2.13. RGS-IBG AC2011

The SCGRG had an unprecedented number of applications for conference sponsorship for 2011, and was not been able to sponsor the majority of session proposal submitted to us. We can only speculate on why this was, but the conference theme – on The Geographical Imagination – might have been a contributing factor. There are also a growing number of postgraduate and postdoctoral students organising sessions which is positive for the discipline, but rather overwhelmed our decision-making processes. We hope these sessions will still find a place somewhere within the conference programme.

The Social and Cultural Geography Research Group is delighted to be sponsoring the following sessions at the RGS/IBG conference in London 31 Aug – 2 Sept 2011.

Sole sponsor

- (Re)Imagining Materialities
- Geographies of Humour and Humorous Geographies
- Mobile Geographies of Art: Bodies, technologies and transnationality

Co-sponsor

- ‘Emerging from the dark’: explorations into the experiences of the night
- Emerging geographies of animal-technology co-productions
- Exhibitionary Geographies and the Post-Museum
- Geographical perspectives on the British Diaspora
- Geographies of Friendships
- “Getting lost on the way to Farmville”: Virtual, mobile and online spaces of interaction
- Meteorological Imaginations: Towards geographies of affective practices of weather, atmospherics and landscapes
- Moving Geographies: Film and Video as Research Method

We are also delighted to be cosponsoring the following interactive event.

- Journey of a Conference Bag: Reflecting on Academic Mobilities and Footprints

3. SCGRG ‘Events Fund’ 2010

The SCGRG makes small sums of money available to members, supporting ideas and events proposed by its wider membership. The aim is to encourage proposals from SCGRG members for a modest resource to support the organisation of conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, reading meetings or other academic activities and events that advance research in social and cultural geography. There are two deadlines for applications each year: the end of February and the end of August. Applications for amounts over £300 should normally be submitted prior to the summer AGM at the RGS/IBG conference. The amount of funding allocated each year depends on Research Group resources. Session organisers were asked to provide feedback on the sessions and the following reports were received.

One main event was supported in 2010, with additional postgraduate bursaries provided for two further workshops:

3.1. Geographies of Religion: a new dialogue conference, held at Newcastle University, 8-9 March 2010

The SCGRG was delighted to provide support for the conference on ‘Geographies of Religion: a new dialogue’, at Newcastle University, 8-9 March 2010, convened by Peter Hopkins. This support was offered by the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG) under its ‘events’ scheme. This is intended to promote proposals for activities from members outside of

the committee, offering a modest resource to support the organisation of conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, reading meetings or other academic activities and events that advance research in social and cultural geography. The SCGRG provided £350 for low wage bursaries, and applied for matched funding from the RGS Research Group Grant for an additional £350 for speaker travel expenses. We would like to thank the RGS for the additional support they provided for this event.

On 8-9th March 2010, the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology at Newcastle University hosted an international 'Geographies of Religion: a new dialogue' conference attracting over seventy participants from Australia, North America, Germany and the UK.

Keynote speakers included Dr Andrew Yip (Nottingham University) who discussed his research about the intersections between religion, youth and sexuality, Professor Kim Knott (Leeds University) who considered how space has been theorised in religious studies and geography, and Dr Elizabeth Olson (University of Edinburgh) who set out an agenda for decolonising geographies of religion. Other keynote contributions included Professor Lily Kong (National University of Singapore) who explored new opportunities for bringing together the study of religion with health and medical geographies and Dr Julian Holloway (Manchester Metropolitan University) who discussed the spaces and sensibilities of faith through the religious formation of the sermon. Dr Jason Dittmer (University College London) mapped out new directions in religious geopolitics and Dr Jane Pollard (Newcastle University) explored the connections between faith and economic geography through her research about Islamic banking and finance.

A number of parallel sessions - including a panel on issues of positionality – focused on: faith and the city; religion and development; and religious places and events; religion and youth; methods in researching religion; gender and sexuality; and sacred and secular spaces. Overall, the conference was a great success with many of the contributors commenting that the event was a key milestone for the study of religion within human geography and beyond. The conference organisers have established a 'working papers' series on geographies of religion - given the breadth and depth of interest in this area – and this will shortly be launched online and hosted by the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology at Newcastle University.

The conference was supported by funding from the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, Newcastle Institute for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers.

The Social and Cultural Geography Research Group provided £350 (which was matched by £350 from the RGS-IBG). The SGRC money was used to provide four bursaries for postgraduate students to present at the conference and contributed to the costs of the keynote speakers. Those receiving bursaries included: Richard Benda (Manchester University £75); Lahkbir Jassal, (Edinburgh University £75), Michelle Brooks (Reading University £100); Imogen Wallace, (Queen Mary University £100). The RGS funds were used to cover travel costs for key speakers including Professor Lily Kong.

3.2. Post-graduate bursaries

The SCGRG made a small number of bursaries for available to SCGRG members to attend the forthcoming conferences on 'Salty Geographies' and 'Urban Green Space'.

- 'Salty' Geographies: Subaltern Maritime networks, spaces and practices is a three-day conference for academics, postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate students, organised by David Featherstone and William Hasty (University of Glasgow). It will be held at the Department of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow, October 7th-9th 2010. The SCGRG made available £200 for two £100 student bursaries for this event.
- The 'Urban Green Space' event is a one-day interdisciplinary colloquium for post-graduates and early career researcher, hosted by CUDEM (Centre for Urban Development and Environmental Management) at the School of the Built Environment, Leeds Metropolitan University. It will be held on 2nd June 2010 and is organized by

Karen Horwood and Nadia Von Benzon. The SCGRG made available a number of £50 bursaries for this event.

The bursaries are open to all SCGRG members, with preference for support going to those without access to funding and those taking an active part in the conference.

3.3. Support for 2011 events

The SCGRG already provided £250 of bursaries for a two-day workshop exploring different modes of spatial engagement within the writing and philosophy of Luce Irigaray. The workshop was organised by Sarah Cant (Oxford Brookes) and Rachel Colls (Durham). It has been held Thursday 6 and Friday 7 January 2011, at Oxford Brookes University, Oxford. The workshop is funded by Oxford Brookes Central Research Fund and the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (RGS-IBG).

The next deadline for applications to this fund is the end of Feb 2011.

4. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

From 2010, the SCGRG has offered an annual prize of £100 for the best Undergraduate Dissertation in Social and Cultural Geography and £50 for the Runner-Up. In total we received 18 submissions for the prize, which was administered by Emma Roe. These spanned the breadth of social and cultural geography interests and we look forward to continuing with the prize in 2011.

The award winner for 2010 was Kaleigh Jones, University of Oxford, for her dissertation entitled *Embodying Mobile Cultures: a case study of Capoeira*. The committee praised the design of the study for its considerable flair and sophistication, and the insightful, innovative and evocative write-up. The study was an extremely theoretically engaged study, based upon fieldwork in the UK and Brazil and gave a rich empirical analysis. The committee felt it made a genuine contribution to academic geography in social and cultural geography.

Emma Bonny, University of Nottingham, was highly commended for her dissertation entitled *The landscape and culture of allotments: a study in Hornchurch, Essex*. The committee were impressed with how deftly she weaved existing literature with original research findings. The findings were based on high quality, in-depth multi-method qualitative research. The discussion of the research was both engaging, innovative and developed ideas within existing cultural geography literature on allotments.

Both prize-winners also received a year's personal subscription to the journal *Social & Cultural Geography* published by Taylor & Francis. We are grateful to Taylor and Francis for this support.

5. SCGRG Event on 'Geography and New Empirics'

The SCGRG has just run its own event, a successful SCGRG on 'Geography and the New Empirics', held at 20th-21st January 2011, UCL and The Royal Geographical Society, London. This was an important flagship conference for the group. The event was organised by Chris Bear, Harriet Hawkins, Amanda Rogers and Alex Tan. It was targeted at postgraduates and new researchers, assisting their development of theoretically informed empirical research, and providing a forum for the discussion and presentation of emerging research issues.

The event was supported by a Research Group Grant of £450 and a commitment from the SCGRG of £700 from its own resources. The full report for this event will be in the 2011 annual report.

6. Financial reporting

The SCGRG is currently working to reduce its relatively large reserve. We have begun to reduce this slowly, steadily, but significantly over the past two years.

We are agreed this could comfortably be reduced to around £1000, increasing the group's activities in the short term, but also leaving the group flexibility to respond to requests for support and other group activities over the longer term. We do not want to reduce this reserve too quickly, as we have two annual deadlines for applications for support from the SCGRG, and we have increased recurrent commitments through the development of undergraduate prizes.

Research Group financial reporting form

Research Group Name

Period	29/1/2010-31/12/10
Receipt and payments account	
INCOME	
RGS-IBG subvention (paid Dec 2010)	£500.00
RGS-IBG grant(s) for Geography and the New Empirics	£450.00
Other grants	£0.00
Subscriptions	£0.00
Conference income	£0.00
Meetings income	£0.00
Royalties	£0.00
Interest	£2.45
Other income (please give details)	£0.00
Total income	£952.45
EXPENDITURE	
Committee expenses (Lunch at AAG)	£84.55
Newsletter costs	£0.00
Grants and awards (Dissertation prizes £100 and £50)	£150.00
Other costs (University of Exeter Book Art)	£250.00
Travel subsidy for Greenspaces conference	£47.75
Newcastle Religion Conference (£350 from 2009 RGS Grant, £350 from SCGRG)	£700.00
Total expenditure	£1,232.30

Total payments

Net surplus/deficit	-£279.85
Opening balance(s) - 21 Jan 2010	£3,328.50
Closing balances - 31 Dec 2010	£3,048.67
It would help if you gave the additional information for BACS payments	
Address of branch where accounts are held	The co-operative bank
Account number(s)	6529252300
Sort code	89299
Name of treasurer	Elaine Ho
Email address of Treasurer	e.ho@leeds.ac.uk
Phone number of Treasurer	0113 34 33362

The two main incomes items for 2010 were the subvention and Research Group Grant. The Grant is to cover expenses on the Geography and the New Empirics conference, for which the SCGRG has also committed £700. These items of expenditure have yet to go through.

Other items of expenditure committed but still to clear the accounts include: bursaries for the 'Salty Geographies' conference and the 'Space and Irigaray workshops' as detailed above. For both of these, the cheques have been delayed as the change of account signatories has been slightly delayed. These should be cleared shortly.

With no further income expected until the 2011 subvention, the SCGRG expects to take a **balance of approximately £2000** into the main period of the year for 2011.

Dr Gail Davies, Chair SCGRG, 24th January 2011