Institute of Australian Geographers

June 2011 Newsletter

Editor: Amanda Davies, School of Social Sciences and Asian Languages, Curtin University, Western Australia

In the News

National Academic Standards for University Geography Endorsed

After an intensive year-long process of development, Australian geographers have now agreed on explicit national statements of threshold (minimum) learning outcomes (TLOs) for a Bachelors graduate with a major in Geography from an Australian university. This statement, which includes a elaboration of the nature and extent of the discipline and an outline of graduate careers, as well as the TLOs, have been endorsed by all major Australian geographical organisations including the Australian Academy of Science’s National Committee for Geography; the Institute of Australian Geographers; the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association; the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland; the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia; and the Geographical Society of New South Wales. A special session has been arranged for the forthcoming IAG conference to launch the Geography Standards Statement formally. To find out more about the process of development and to gain access to a .pdf of the Standards Statement, visit: http://www.altc.edu.au/standards/disciplines/ASSH If you would like a hardcopy of the Statement, please send your mailing details to Iain Hay at iain.hay@flinders.eu.au

Improvements To Excellence in Research for Australia

Ministerial statement to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee - Improvements to Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 30th May 2011

After several years of development, the first round of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative was run in 2010, with results published by the Australian Research Council (ARC) earlier this year in the ERA National Report. The exercise has been an overwhelming success in meeting its objective of providing institutions, researchers, industry and students with a sound, evidence-based means of identifying areas of strength and potential, as well as areas where we need to do better. These assessments were made against international benchmarks using the indicators that have been developed over time – in many instances over many decades – by the disciplines themselves. This has underpinned the strong support for the ERA methodology across the higher education research sector.

I have said all along that we are keen to undertake meaningful consultation. We remain open to suggestions on enhancements to what we know to be a very good scheme. I have been aware for some time of concerns within the sector about certain aspects of the exercise, particularly the ranked journal
lists. These concerns have been communicated to me directly, reported in the sector media, and voiced in the ARC’s extensive sector consultations ahead of preparations for the second iteration of ERA in 2012. Additional matters that have been raised include the strength of the peer review process and the capacity of ERA to adequately capture applied and interdisciplinary research.

The ARC has advised me that consultation has revealed that there is a widespread preference for limited change, to ensure that ERA 2010 and ERA 2012 outcomes can be compared. Overall, however, the ARC considers that making a small number of changes to the ERA 2010 methodology could substantially enhance the integrity and acceptance of the ERA 2010 evaluation exercise, without compromising comparability.

As always, we are in the business of making refinements that improve the operation of ERA. I therefore commissioned the ARC to produce an options paper outlining different ways we might be able to utilise these indicators to address these concerns, and to consider any implications arising from the potential adoption of alternatives. I placed particular emphasis on the absolute need to maintain the rigour of the ERA exercise, to ensure the comparability of the results of the next iteration with ERA 2010, and to pay close attention to the detailed concerns of the sector. Within those parameters, however, I wished to explore ways in which we could improve ERA so the aspects of the exercise causing sector disquiet – especially issues around the ranked journals list – could be minimised or even overcome.

As the result of this process, I have approved a set of enhancements recommended by the ARC that deal substantially with those sector concerns while maintaining the rigour and comparability of the ERA exercise. These improvements are:

- The refinement of the journal quality indicator to remove the prescriptive A*, A, B and C ranks;
- The introduction of a journal quality profile, showing the most frequently published journals for each unit of evaluation;
- Increased capacity to accommodate multi-disciplinary research to allow articles with significant content from a given discipline to be assigned to that discipline, regardless of where it is published (this method was successfully trialed in ERA 2010 within Mathematical Sciences);
- Alignment across the board of the low volume threshold to 50 outputs (bringing peer-reviewed disciplines in line with citation disciplines, up from 30 outputs);
- The relaxation of rules on the attribution of patents, plant breeders’ rights and registered design, to allow those granted to eligible researchers to also be submitted; and
- The modification of fractional staff eligibility requirements to 0.4 FTE (up from 0.1 FTE), while maintaining the right to submit for staff below this threshold where affiliation is shown, through use of a by-line, for instance).

I have also asked the ARC to continue investigating strategies to strengthen the peer review process, including improved methods of sampling and review assignment.

As with some other aspects of ERA, the rankings themselves were inherited from the discontinued Research Quality Framework (RQF) process of the previous government, and were developed on the basis of expert bibliometric advice. Patterns of their utilisation by the RECs and detailed analysis of their performance in the ERA 2010 exercise, however, have made it clear that the journal lists themselves are the key contributor to the judgements made, not the rankings within them.
There is clear and consistent evidence that the rankings were being deployed inappropriately within some quarters of the sector, in ways that could produce harmful outcomes, and based on a poor understanding of the actual role of the rankings. One common example was the setting of targets for publication in A and A* journals by institutional research managers.

In light of these two factors – that ERA could work perfectly well without the rankings, and that their existence was focussing ill-informed, undesirable behaviour in the management of research – I have made the decision to remove the rankings, based on the ARC’s expert advice.

The journals lists will still be of great utility and importance, but the removal of the ranks and the provision of the publication profile will ensure they will be used descriptively rather than prescriptively.

These reforms will strengthen the role of the ERA Research Evaluation Committee (REC) members in using their own, discipline-specific expertise to make judgments about the journal publication patterns for each unit of evaluation.

It is important to note that these changes will be exposed to public comment during July as part of the draft submission guidelines. I am confident that these improvements will strengthen the ERA methodology and minimise the unintended consequences arising from inappropriate external use of the indicators, while maintaining the comparability of future rounds with the ERA 2010 results.

I would like to thank the ARC, led by Professor Margaret Sheil, for the extensive development work that went into producing these improvements, and the ERA 2010 REC members and other key academic leaders for their invaluable advice. I particularly thank the university research sector, whose detailed feedback informed the work, and whose support for ERA overall has been so positive.

**2011 IAG STUDY GROUP MEETINGS**

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IAG Study Group News

Rural Studies Group

The Rural Studies Group is hosting a special paper session at the 2011 IAG conference. The session ‘Rural Demographies: Challenges and Changes for the 21st Century’ has been organised by Dr Rae Dufty. The session commences at 9am Wednesday 6th July with an extended presentation by visiting Professor Aileen Stockdale. Eight other scholars will present their recent research in the following two sessions.

The Rural Studies Group AGM will be at 1pm on Monday 4th July at the IAG conference venue. The meeting venue will be advertised on the conference notice board. At this meeting I will finish my term as convener of the Rural Studies Group. If you are interested in being convener of the study group for a two year term please email me. All nominations will be presented to the membership at the AGM where a new convener will be elected.

FASTS News

Budget spells business as usual for science - Released 10 May2011

FASTS welcomes the preservation of funding for research, through the NHMRC and ARC budgets and Australia’s premier science organisation, the CSIRO.

“By taking a business as usual approach, the Budget misses the opportunity to recognise science as a core part of the productivity and participation agenda,” said Dr Cathy Foley, FASTS’ President.

“Even in straitened financial times, governments across the world are not squibbing on science and technology, recognised drivers of economic growth and productivity.

“Science underpins some of the most productive areas of the Australian economy – mining and energy production, information technology, biomedical research - and should be at the heart of the productivity agenda in Australia.

“I welcome commitments to expand the number of university places and the establishment of the National Workforce Development Fund but more must be done to address the skills shortage facing the science sector.

“The resources sector has clearly stated that more engineers and scientists are required to remain competitive. “Bold action is required to boost the research workforce and keep Australia internationally competitive, measures that will improve the budget bottom line,” said Dr Foley.

FASTS welcomes the government’s $21 million commitment to science communication through the Inspiring Australia Program, honouring an important election commitment.

“Science is essential for our prosperity, our environment, our health, our security, and our quality of life. Investment in science communication and advocacy is more essential than ever to inspire young people to choose science as a career.” Dr Foley concluded.
Institute of Australian Geographers Conference 2011
‘Geography on the edge’
University of Wollongong
Wollongong
3-6 July, 2011

Conferences

9th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities
8-11 June 2011, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
http://www.HumanitiesConference.com

Joint IUGG Symposia
Revisiting experimental catchment studies in forest hydrology
28 June – 7 July 2011, Melbourne

14th Pacific Rim First Year in Higher Education Conference
29 June-1 July 2011, Fremantle
http://www.fyhe.com.au

Planning’s Future – Futures Planning: Planning in an Era of Global (Un)Certainty and Transformation
World Planning Schools Congress
4-8 July 2011, Perth Western Australia

18th International Conference on Learning
5-8 July 2011, University of Mauritius, Mauritius
http://www.LearningConference.com

‘Mobilities and Neighbourhoods’ Symposium
15-16 July 2011, Massey University, New Zealand

Global Studies Conference
18-20 July, 2011
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
http://www.GlobalStudiesConference.com

3rd International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses
21-22 July 2011
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
www.Climate-Conference.com
Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Video, Audio, New Media and Feminism
21-23 July 2011, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
http://www.flinders.edu.au/console-ing-passions

19th Annual Colloquium of the International Geographical Union Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems
1-7 August 2011, National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland

6th International Conference of Critical Geography 2011
“Crises – Causes, Dimensions, Reactions”
16-20 August 2011, Frankfurt, Germany
http://www.iccg2011.org

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity
26 – 30 September 2011, Aberdeen, Scotland
www.marine-biodiversity.org

5th Asia-Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity (5APCEI)
“Educational Integrity: Culture and Values”
26 – 28 September 2011, The University of Western Australia
www.apcei.catl.uwa.edu.au

2nd International Conference on the Image
26-27 September 2011, Kursaal Congress Palace, San Sebastian, Spain
http://www.ontheimage.com/conference/

2nd International Confernece on the Constructed Environment
29-30 October 2011
University Center, Chicago, USA

5th State of Australian Cities Conference
28 November - 2 December 2011, Melbourne

8th International Confernece on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability
10-12 January 2012, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
http://www.SustainabilityConference.com
Conference Reports

**Stewart Williams** (University of Tasmania) won some assistance with a UK Economic & Social Research Council, Early Career Researcher Award (claimed up to £300) to attend the Neoliberal Policy Agendas and the Changing Nature of Flood Risk Management workshop run by geographer Prof Graham Haughton (then at U. Hull now at U. Manchester). It was an excellent workshop as it brought academics together with the local councils and many practitioners involved the terrible floods there in recent years.

**John Connell** (Uni of Sydney) was a panellist in an Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development, United Nations, New York, 19 May 2011. He was the only academic selected to appear on this prestigious panel discussion. The day long meeting on the Contribution of migrants to development aimed to identify and share best practices on how to maximise the contributions of migrants to development and leverage the opportunities offered by international migration to reduce poverty, promote economic growth and foster human development in countries of origin and destination.
PhD student Vijai Joseph (UNSW Canberra) presented his work at the Resilience 2011: Resilience, Innovation, and Sustainability: Navigating the Complexities of Global Change conference in Tempe Arizona. His paper titled: ‘Livelihood Capitals and Occupational Systems Transitions - A Case Study of Coastal Occupational Groups in Central Java Province of Indonesia’ in the context of sea level rise and drawing on his work in Indonesia was well received. His project with Indonesian coastal villages provides a useful insight into the complexity of vulnerability and resilience applied research.

Researchers from the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies and the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies have been collaborating with researchers from the School of Environment at the University of Auckland under the working title of SKCAN (Situated Knowledge Collaborative Auckland and Newcastle).

Seventeen human and physical geography staff and postgraduate students met on 8-9 February in Auckland to progress discussions on the significance and potency of situated knowledge in the Australasian context. The workshop is part of a long term professional commitment between geographers in both departments to share their common interest in performance and performativity of human and non-human actors. The workshop focused on establishing a broad genealogy of ideas relating to situated knowledge, geographical initiatives in the name of situated knowledge, and knowledge production principles guiding the 'doing' of situated knowledge. From the discussion ‘SKCAN’ was coined to evoke the idea of multiple dimensions and directions of situated knowledge production. A copy of the reading list used at the workshop is available. For more information contact: Dr Karen Fisher k.fisher@auckland.ac.nz, Prof Richard Le Heron r.leheron@auckland.ac.nz, Prof Pauline McGuirk pauline.mcgirk@newcastle.edu.au or Dr Kathy Mee kathy.mee@newcastle.edu.au.

The group is convening a series of session at the IAG’s annual conference in Wollongong, July 3-6, with over a dozen papers due to be presented, alongside a panel discussion and a special presentation by Associate Professor Eugene McCann (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver). Eugene is being hosted the Urban Geography Study group and will be familiar to many for his work on urban policy and politics, urban policy mobilities and the global travel of situated knowledge. His edited collection with Kevin Ward (McCann, E.J. & Ward, K. eds. Mobile urbanism: Cities & policy-making in the global age, University of Minnesota Press) has just been published.

Eugene’s special presentation at the IAG conference in Wollongong will be on the topic of ‘Situated Knowledge on the move? Reflections on urban policy mobilities/immobilities’.
Grant and Award Opportunities

**Griffith Taylor Medal**
The medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia. No more than one medal is to be awarded in each two year period.

- Professor Bruce Thom 2004 [citation](#)
- Emeritus Professor John Holmes 2006 [citation](#)
- Professor Joe Powell 2008

**Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers**
The Fellowship is awarded for distinguished service to Australian geography through furthering the aims of the Institute. The award was called the ‘Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographer’ prior to 2008.

- Dr Peter Smailes 2008 [citation](#)
- Emeritus Professor Bob Fagan 2009 [citation](#)
- Professor Ruth Fincher 2009 [citation](#)
- Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick 2009 [citation](#)
- Associate Professor Alaric Maude 2009 [citation](#)
- Emeritus Professor Roger McLean 2009 [citation](#)
- Mr Alex Lyne 2010
- Professor Hilary P.M. Winchester 2009
- Dr Robert Burne 2010
- Dr Jocelyn Davies 2010
- Dr Ruth Farmer 2010
- Ms Julie Kesby 2010
- Emeritus Professor Bruce Ryan 2010
- Dr Robin F Warner 2010

**Australia - International Medal**
In recognition of either outstanding contributions by Australian (or Australia-based) geographers to the advancement of Geography worldwide or of outstanding contributions to the understanding of the geography of Australia by geographers permanently residing outside Australia. No more than one medal is to be awarded each year.

- Dr Janice Monk 1999
- Professor Reginald Golledge 2000
- Professor Tom McKnight 2001
- Emeritus Professor Harold Brookfield 2005 [citation](#)
- Emeritus Professor Ian Douglas 2006 [citation](#)
- Professor John Connell 2009
- Professor Katherine Gibson and Professor Julie Graham 2010

**Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers**
Is awarded for sustained service to the geography profession in Australia.

- Professor Iain Hay 2008
- Associate Professor Tony Sorenson 2008
- Professor Kay Anderson 2009
- Adjunct Associate Professor Patrick Armstrong 2009
- Mr Terry Birtles 2009
- Professor Bill Boyd 2009
- Professor Robert Freestone 2009
- Professor Roy Jones 2009
- Professor Brian G. Lees 2009
- Professor Richard Le Heron 2009
- Emeritus Associate Professor Bob Loughran 2009
- Professor Pauline McGuirk 2009
- Professor Phil O’Neill 2009
- Associate Professor Elaine Stratford 2009
- Emeritus Professor Murray Wilson 2009

**Past Winners**

**Griffith Taylor Medal**
- Mrs Ann Marshall 1989 [citation](#)
- Dr Les Heathcote 1997 [citation](#)
- Dr Joe Gentilli 1998
- Professor Fay Gale 2001 [citation](#)
Grants and Awards Received

Stuart Pearson (UNSW Canberra) with Pauline Grierson have received an AINSE grant titled ‘Opening tree core and sub-fossil wood archives at key Western Australian sites using AMS dating of the Bomb Pulse period and iTRAX’. This is part of a wave of Australian Dendrochronological work to be featured at a workshop Australian Dendrochronology Beyond 2011 at AINSE, Lucas Heights, Sydney 28 Nov 2011.

Scott Sharp (UNSW Canberra) and Kevin Dunn (UWS) are part of a team who had success in the latest ARC Linkage Project Rounds. The project is titled “An exploration of the frequency, outcomes, enablers and constraints of bystander anti-racism.” An extract of the summary is as follows:

“Bystander anti-racism involves ordinary people speaking up and taking prosocial action when witnessing racism. This project will develop empirical understandings of this underexplored, yet potentially powerful, form of anti-racism...”

The funding is $149 000 over 4 years commencing July 2011 and is in collaboration with the following researchers: Yin Paradis (U.Melb), Bernard Guerin (UniSA), Anne Pedersen (Murdoch), and Maria Hynes (ANU) with partner organisations Australian Human Rights Commission, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.

Stewart Williams (University of Tasmania) was awarded a University of Tasmania, Institutional Research Grants Scheme grant for 2011 ($18,998) Enhancing Bioenergy Transformation: Insights from innovations in biodiesel production using agricultural waste to fuel public transport in Tasmania.

Kay Anderson (UWS) is Chief Investigator of an ARC Discovery Grant (2011-13) titled ‘Decolonising the Human: Towards a Postcolonial Ecology’.

Philip Hirsch (Uni of Sydney) received a grant from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research of $125,000 for a pilot study of Change and adaptation of smallholder fisheries livelihoods in Lao PDR. Dr Yayoi Fujita Lagerqvist is also involved in this study.

Geographers are Working On...

Gina Koczberski and George Curry (Curtin) were invited to present papers at a half-day symposium on Logging, Oil Palm and Livelihoods in Papua New Guinea hosted by the Cairns Institute and the Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science, James Cook University, Cairns, 20 April, 2011.

Gina Koczberski and George Curry have just returned from three months fieldwork in Papua New Guinea where they continued their research on smallholder livelihoods and commodity crop production in the oil palm, cocoa and coffee sectors. Their research is examining land tenure issues, smallholder adaptability, nutrient management and household production strategies. While in PNG they were invited to present seminars on their work at the Coffee Industry Corporation, Eastern Highlands Province, and at the Cocoa Coconut Institute, East New Britain Province.
News From the Universities

University of Wollongong

A UOW teaching program, called ‘UOW Indigenous Geographies’ won a Faculty OCTAL (Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning) Award for 2011. The team includes Dr Michael Adams (UOW), Aunty Julie Freeman (Wreck Bay Elder), Uncle Max Harrison (Yuin Elder), Vanessa Cavanagh (Cultural Heritage Research Officer, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage), Russell Couch (Director, Policy, Information & Research Branch, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage), Dr Martin Fortescue (Manager Booderee National Park).

Coastal Collaboration Cluster (submitted by University of Wollongong)

The Coastal Collaboration Cluster (http://www.csiro.au/partnerships/Coastal-Cluster.html) is a major three-year (2011-2013) research program aimed at developing approaches to better connect science with the needs of governments, communities and industries to meet coastal challenges. The Cluster unites diverse research capabilities across eight universities (Curtin University of Technology, Deakin University, Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, University of the Sunshine Coast, University of Tasmania, and University of Wollongong) and CSIRO.

The cluster partners will identify the key social and institutional barriers that inhibit the uptake of science in the coastal zone. They will look at ways to introduce and apply the best knowledge available to coastal policy-making and planning processes, so that Australia can better manage changing coastal pressures. Through the cluster, the research partners seek to:

• develop methods and avenues to make science outcomes easier to use in coastal-zone management,
• help communities, industry and government better understand options to adapt to the pressures on coastal economic, social and environmental systems,
• enable comprehensive improvements to Australian coastal zone management.

The Cluster is composed of five Themes studied across eight universities. The Themes are: governance, socio-cultural context, knowledge systems, and adaptive learning. The various themes will be integrated by a keystone Theme: integration, analysis and synthesis, led by the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) under the coordination of Richard Kenchington (Professorial Fellow and Theme leader) and Debora De Freitas (Postdoctoral Research Fellow).

The Integration, Analysis and Synthesis Theme plays active roles in bringing the other themes together, and should provide strong leadership, close cooperation and communication, while fostering a genuinely collaborative approach between the Cluster participants and with the relevant CSIRO Flagships teams. The primary and essential aim of The Integration, Analysis and Synthesis Theme is to develop practical, workable strategies for progressing improved integrated management and communication between the many players with diverse needs, expectations and perspectives involved in the coastal zone. Such strategies will include a core focus on how development, implementation and dissemination of the results of CSIRO scientific work might be developed to better contribute to overall outcomes for the future of the coastal zone. Integrating, distilling and testing lessons should increase understanding of how and why significant divergences may occur will be a key outcome of this Theme.
Urban Research Centre, University of Western Sydney

Since January, Dr Louise Crabtree of the Urban Research Centre and Associate Professor Kaye Shumack of the School of Communication Arts/Centre for Cultural Research have been collaborating on a project entitled “Exploring urban resilience through participatory mapping” funded by UWS and focusing on a visit by locative media artist Christian Nold. A series of preparatory workshops involving UWS researchers, administrative staff and regional partners identified two core sustainability issues in the region. First was the transport patterns of UWS staff and students and second was the potential for sustainable food-based social enterprise in the region. The week-long intensive during Nold’s visit therefore focused on developing a platform for capturing experiences of travelling to UWS and laid the groundwork for a second community food mapping project to be undertaken with Parramatta City Council.

The first of these developed into the project “How did you get here?”, which sought to complement existing quantitative knowledge regarding UWS transport patterns. While previous university surveys have yielded quantitative data on the forms of transport utilised, very little is known about the decisions and experiences embroiled in various transport modes. “How did you get here?” is concerned with the role of experiential data in illuminating issues that affect behaviour and which can shed light on appropriate interventions for enabling more sustainable transport choices. The first stage of the project collated data generated by students drawing their journey on a paper map, consisting of a physical trace of the route taken annotated with reflections on the experience. These maps were then scanned and overlaid on an Open Street Map layer, which used 2D barcodes to anchor the journey traces on the virtual map. Over 100 maps were created by first-year students at a temporary kiosk set up during Orientation Week, and yielded rich data regarding not only how students travel to UWS (mode and route) but also the thinking behind those decisions and the experience of the journey. The presence of the kiosk itself also emerged as a crucial intervention, with students able to articulate stories to the project team and discuss their transport options. The information collated will be provided to university transport staff to guide transport planning, and to develop more interactive platforms to further the dialogue between the university administration and students on transport and sustainability issues.

The maps will be visible online at www.sensoryjourneys.uws.edu.au, with a link to a dynamic Google Earth tour. Extensive research, administrative and technical support to the project has been provided by Jason Tuckwell, Ferne Edwards and Sharif Olorin. A joint paper presenting preliminary findings will be presented at the Centre for Cultural Research workshop “Mapping Ecologies of Place: Local, Virtual, Digital” on June 16-17.

Phillip O'Neill and Borce Dimeski have secured funding from Sydney Markets Ltd to undertake an audit and analysis of Sydney’s fresh fruit and vegetables flows. The project gives the researchers unprecedented access to data showing the origins of Sydney’s basic foodstuffs. The project will use innovative GIS techniques to sort the thousands of daily market transactions for the purposes of informing the debate on how a large city should feed itself in the context of an expanding periphery, the loss of adjacent market gardens and (probably) alarming increases in food miles.

The Urban Research Centre is delighted to welcome Martin Nichols to the fold who has commenced his PhD. Martin has recently retired from the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority. His research will consider the costs of infrastructure (capital, maintenance and use) associated with varying city forms with a particular focus on roads. He will investigate whether or not savings can be made from compact city forms compared with more dispersed patterns of development. Costs associated with 'leap-frogged' development will also receive critical attention.
School of Social Sciences, University of Western Sydney

From January to April 2011 the School of Social Sciences, University of Western Sydney, hosted Dr Helen Jarvis and Dr Peter Hopkins from the University of Newcastle (UK). Helen hosted a very successful workshop for postgraduate students on “Doing Biographies of People and Place”, and made links with local community organisations as part of her research about collaborative housing innovations in Australian cities. Peter gave a number of presentations about student activism, and the experiences of Muslim students in the UK, as well as exploring opportunities for international undergraduate teaching collaborations.

Professor Kevin Dunn was appointed as the Head of School for the School of Social Sciences in April, with a five year term. He brings with him a vision for the School that includes enhancing the esteem and research productivity within Human Geography and in Urban and Regional Studies.

Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Newcastle

In 2011, Pauline McGuirk (University of Newcastle), Robyn Dowling (Macquarie University) and Harriet Bulkeley (Durham University, UK) were awarded an ARC Discovery Project for a 3 year project entitled Governing Carbon: Australia’s Cities and Carbon Control. Work has commenced on scoping the ‘who’, ‘how’ and ‘where’ of urban carbon governance and of the innovations emanating from Australian capital cities.

Meg Sherval has been working on two chapters for a new Wiley Press text -Visualising World Regional Geography (Ed. Stanley D. Brunn) to be published in 2012. She and colleague Lee Huskey at the University of Alaska, Anchorage are co-writing a chapter on the ‘Circumpolar North’ and with colleagues Gordon Waitt (University of Wollongong), Lynda Johnston and Robyn Longhurst (University of Waikato), she is co-writing a chapter on ‘Australia and New Zealand Geography’.

Paul Hodge is currently working on two research areas. The first relates to the development aid industry in the South Pacific and uses a Foucauldian governmentality approach to explore a) AusAID/partner relations, and b) NGOs in Fiji and their tenuous and contradictory relationship with Frank Bainimarama. The second research area considers student experiences in cross-cultural field-based learning particularly in the context of student project work with Indigenous tour operators in the Northern Territory. Undertaken with Sarah Wright, the research adds to existing work on experiential learning models and emotional geographies by drawing out the transformative effects of emotions in cross-cultural student field work.

University of New South Wales Canberra

Geographers at The University of New South Wales Canberra were involved in the establishment and early meetings of the Sino-Australia Research Centre for Coastal Management [http://pems.unsw.adfa.edu.au//SARCCM/index.html]. The Geographers at University of New South Wales Canberra campus of the Australian Defence Force Academy are currently reviewing their teaching program, curriculum and assessment following discussions about geography graduate outcomes. The third year courses are attracting considerable interest - Uluru and Alice Springs (2011) and Samoa (2012).
Stuart Pearson (UNSW Canberra) and Reece Osborne (RAN and an Honours student at UNSW Canberra) recently returned from tree coring in some remote areas of Western Australia – they are currently working with biochemists to unlock more of the environmental record stored in tree rings.

Paul Tranter (UNSW Canberra) is currently organizing his Special Studies Program (SSP) in Semester 2 2001 to Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. Paul plans to conduct research combining the topics of the mobilities of youth and effective speed.

Roger McLean (UNSW Canberra) continues to participate in Pacific and International Climate Change. In April 2011 he contributed to a Program Design Workshop for the next phases of AusAID’s Pacific Climate Prediction and Climate and Sea Level Monitoring Projects and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) Pacific Science and Adaptation Projects, which was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Later he was a resource person at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Small Islands Expert and Young Scientists Workshop in Belize. In May he participated in the DCCEE's Lessons for Future Action: Adaptation for Small Island Developing States conference in Apia, Samoa.

Members On the Move

Prof. Brian Lees is retiring as HoS and into a more productive state at the University of New South Wales Canberra (formerly known as UNSW@ADFA). As an actively retired Geography Professor he will be returning to the Geography fold having done time as a Head of a multi-discipline School.

Members Recent Publications

New Books

Open University Press has published Iain Hay’s newest book Inspiring Academics. Learning with the World's Great University Teachers. This 2011 volume includes autoethnographic contributions from several geographers (e.g. Mick Healey, Sue Wurtele), as well as from Nobel Laureate and US Professor of the Year, Carl Wieman. Inspiring Academics draws on the experience and expertise of award-winning university teachers to illuminate exemplary teaching practice. It is structured around five core themes: inspiring learning, command of the field, assessment for independent learning, student development and scholarship. Mirroring the vast range of practices and characteristics that constitute high quality teaching, 26 distinguished scholars from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the USA (the contributors are recipients of major national teaching awards such as the Canadian 3M Awards, US Professors of the Year...) recount and reflect on the personal and professional circumstances that have made them great teachers. Through its autoethnographic approach, this book provides captivating and illuminating personal explorations of the 'hows and whys' of excellent university teaching.

More information about the book is available at the publisher's website: http://www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk/html/033523741X.html
New Books

Oxford University Press have recently (2011) published Iain Hay (Flinders) and Philip Giles’ (St Mary’s, Newfoundland) first Canadian edition of *Communicating in Geography and the Environmental Sciences*. This is an extension and revision of the third edition of Iain’s Australia/New Zealand book of the same title.


**Chris Gibson** (UOW) and **John Connell**’s (Sydney) new book, *Festival Places: Revitalising Rural Places*, has been released by the tourism publisher Channel View Press. It features chapters by geographers, historians, cultural studies scholars and anthropologists discussing the meaning and significance of festivals to rural communities.

**John Connell** and **Phil McManus** (both Sydney) have a new co-authored book *Rural Revival? Place Marketing, Tree Change and Regional Migration in Australia* (Ashgate, 2011). This book will be launched by Professor Jim Walmsley at the Rural Demographies sessions of the IAG Conference in Wollongong.


A new book co-edited by **Ruth Lane** and **Andrew Gorman-Murray** *Material Geographies of Household Sustainability* has just been released by Ashgate Press. It will be launched at the IAG conference in Wollongong.

Claire Freeman (University of Otago, New Zealand) and **Paul Tranter** (UNSW Canberra) have recently published a book titled: *Children and their Urban Environment: Changing Worlds*. A book launch is planned to be held at the 17th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Human Development Association (AHDA) Dunedin in early July 2011. Further information about the book and purchase details are available at: [http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=102560](http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=102560).

**Julie Kesby** (UNSW Canberra) and **Stuart Pearson** (UNSW Canberra) have been involved in a collaborative publication that seeks to develop researchers and research understanding in coastal management – a fertile field for Geographers in China. Volume 11 of Labour and Management in Development Special Edition: Coastal Management in China and Australia is a joint project with the Sino-Australian Research Centre for Coastal Management (SARCCM) and Ocean University of China (OUC). Julie currently provides research support to SARCCM and has been involved in providing editorial support/advice to the paper authors of this Edition of LMD.

Reports

Meg Sherval, Pauline McGuirk and Louise Askew (Newcastle) were among the authors of a National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility report entitled Drought and the Future of Rural Communities: Drought Impacts and Adaptation in Regional Victoria, Australia.


The report can be downloaded from: http://www.nccarf.edu.au/node/479

Postgraduate News

Daminda Solangaarachchi (UNSW Canberra) has won a travel grant from the IGU to present a paper based on his PhD thesis research at the next meeting in Santiago. His paper is entitled: ‘Assessing Vulnerability to Bushfire Risk at the Urban Bush Interface in Sydney, Australia: A Place-based Modelling Approach’.

Tayanah O’Donnell (UWS) a PhD student at the Urban Research Centre attended the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility’s (NCCARF) “Climate Adaptation Masterclass” held in Brisbane on 20th May. The workshop highlighted the need for continued high quality and interdisciplinary research on various aspects of climate change adaptation. The panel of speakers included authors of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change Extremes (due 2012), who highlighted that Australia was leading the world in actual adaptation implementation. Tayanah’s PhD thesis is an interdisciplinary and comparative empirical study comparing the social and legal adaptation measures underway, in the context of sea level rise, in two New South Wales coastal sites.

Chris Brennan-Horley (UOW) recently completed his PhD thesis on experimental uses of GIS for creative industries research – which was passed unanimously by his assessors, with commendation. Chris now holds a position as GIS Project Manager in the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER) coordinating uses of GIS for cultural research on an ARC grant on cultural sustainability in Australian country towns (Cls Gordon Waitt and Chris Gibson).

Ben Gallan (UOW) has commenced his PhD project exploring the binary concept of day and night, within the context of debates about the urban impossible and more-than-human geographies of the city.

Gareth Edwards (Uni of Sydney) graduated in May with his PhD from the University of Sydney, with a thesis entitled “The construction of scarcity and the mobilization of justice in the context of neoliberal water reforms in Australia”. At the start of June he moved to the UK to take up a Postdoctoral Research Associate position at Durham University, working on the ESRC-funded project ‘Urban Transitions: climate change, global cities and the transformation of socio-technical systems’, led by Harriet Bulkeley.
Fiona McKenzie, a PhD candidate in the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, and Policy Adviser to the Terrestrial Carbon Group, convened a workshop on ‘Innovative Approaches to Land in the Climate Change Solution: Terrestrial Carbon Policy Workshop’, 29 – 31 March 2011, Lusaka, Zambia. The workshop was hosted by the Terrestrial Carbon Group, in collaboration with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). During this time in Zambia, Fiona was also able to see firsthand the work of Zambia’s Conservation Farming Unit, making visits to several farms outside Lusaka. As part of this project, Fiona also attended Agriculture and Rural Development Day, hosted by the Consultative Group on International agricultural Research (CGIAR) / Global Donor Platform for Rural Development at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 16) in Cancun, Mexico in late December 2010. She also gave a presentation on terrestrial carbon and agriculture at the African Biocarbon Initiative meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi, in November 2010. In April 2011, Fiona was a panellist at the Sydney Theatre Company’s Wentworth Talks series, addressing the topic ‘Carbon in the climate solution: why science isn’t the answer’. Fiona is due to submit her PhD thesis, which is supervised Assoc. Prof. Phil McManus, in July, 2011. Her thesis title is ‘Farmer Driven Innovation in Agriculture: Creating Opportunities for Sustainability’.

Liping Yan is a new PhD student at the University of Sydney. Liping has a Master degree in physical geography from Sun Yat-sen University and used to work on urban water management in a Chinese local government. She has commenced PhD studies under the supervision of Phil McManus. Liping has a particular interest in sustainable water management, exploring the optimal means of enhancing water use efficiency and moving towards ecological sustainability. She is attending the IAG Conference 2011 in Wollongong, taking the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge research.

Young Ng, a PhD student in the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, was invited as a speaker at the International Workshop on Geotourism and Geoparks held in Perth on May 26-27, 2011 hosted by the Forum Advocating Cultural and Ecotourism (FACET). The forum was fully supported by the Tourism Australia and Department of Conservation and Environment of Western Australia. The workshop was conducted in two sessions. The theme of the first session was on Australia’s National Landscapes Program which was managed jointly by Tourism Australia and Parks Australia. Ross MacCulloch, Chair of the Great South West National Landscape (WA) gave an introduction to the program and its criteria for becoming a member. This was followed by Joanne McKnight, Coordinator of Kanawinka Geopark (Vic & SA) who introduced the UNESCO Global Geopark initiative and compared it with the National Landscapes Program. It was concluded that the two programs could work closely together in protecting and promoting the natural landscapes of Australia. The second session of the workshop was about Geotourism and Geoparks in which the geotourism experiences of Japan, Korea, Jordan, Australia and France were shared. Recent achievements of Australia’s Kanawinka Global Geopark in enhancing local involvement and sustainable development were discussed. Young Ng of University of Sydney presented the latest development, challenges and future of the Hong Kong National Geopark. The workshop was attended by over 45 delegates from various government departments, non-governmental organizations, universities and private enterprises. At the end of the international workshop, Young made a trip to Wave Rock at Hyden, 350 km east of Perth, to study the geological site and its potential of becoming a geopark. The challenge faced by Wave Rock is a typical example of establishing geoparks in remote areas. Young had meetings with local people and is preparing a report for the local communities, at the same time as his supervisor is cracking the whip to get him to finish his PhD thesis.
Robin Branson, School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney, is currently in the throes of submitting a PhD thesis on bilateral industrial symbiosis, a niche of industrial ecology that might not seem like a geographer’s paradise at first glance but in reality is probably a close as one can get. Industrial ecologists study sustainability from the perspective of industry. Historically (that is to say in the last forty years or so) much of the research has been technical; tracking the flow of materials and energy, improving the efficiency of manufacturing processes, reducing the quantity of inputs and their environmental toxicity. As knowledge of these issues has matured, focus has shifted towards matters that thrive on the geographer’s turf. So it is with industrial symbiosis. It used to be understood simply as a network of (manufacturing) organisations, in close proximity that were able to share resource and cascade energy but more significantly, use each other’s waste. Since the early 2000s, views on industrial symbiosis have proliferated, largely, I think, as a result of applying the precepts and ‘tools’ of the geographer’s trade. This is certainly the case in my own research, which I began, as any engineer might, with a hypothesis, a matrix and the expectation of running some highly controlled trials. I wound up with a series of research questions, surveys, interviews and a frightening amount of reading on methodology about which I knew absolutely nothing! The upshot is a radical reinterpretation of events which produced a model for a simple business strategy that is somewhat different to the conventional concept. This work will be presented at the 6th bi-annual conference of the International Society for Industrial Ecology at Berkeley, USA in early June 2011 and will be discussed at a research symposium specifically on industrial symbiosis, immediately preceding the conference.

Tom Baker (Newcastle) presented a paper from his PhD research entitled ‘Approaching urban policy mobilities: the geography, politics and practice of mobilising policy’ at the Association of American Geographers Conference in Seattle. Tom has also co-authored a book chapter with Kathy Mee that will appear this year:


Jill Sweeney (Newcastle) has submitted her PhD thesis entitled Posthuman Geographies of the Southern Ocean.

Three new postgraduate students have commenced their PhDs at Newcastle:
Jane Rich (co-supervised with Health): An interdisciplinary investigation into the relationship between drought and mental health in Australia.
Elizabeth Adamzyck: The experiences of urban public spaces in the contemporary inner city.
Sarah Bell: Human and Nonhuman Encounters in Urban Space.