

Bulletin Spring 2022

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

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Mapping
made accessible



About the Society

Need to know

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is the UK's learned society for geography and professional body for geographers. We are also a membership organisation and a registered charity.

The Society was founded in 1830 to advance geographical science and this remains our core purpose. We achieve this through supporting geographical research, education, and fieldwork and expeditions, as well as by advocating on behalf of the discipline and promoting geography to public audiences.

We value our independence as well as the breadth of our activities that support the understanding of the world's people, places and environments.

Everyone with an enthusiasm for geography, travel and exploration is welcome to join.

W www.rgs.org **T** @RGS_IBG **E** membership@rgs.org **T** +44 (0)20 7591 3080



A message From the Director

It has been a real pleasure to welcome many of you back to the Society's building over the last couple of months. As our staff have gradually returned, as audiences for our in-person events have steadily built and as our reliance on Zoom has slowly diminished, we are all finding new, and hopefully improved, ways of working.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society's staff showing such resilience and flexibility during the upheaval and change. I hope that those of you who have attended meetings or events, visited the Foyle Reading Room or made use of the Members' Room, have enjoyed reconnecting with each other in person at the Society.

Of course, it's not only in South Kensington that Society Fellows and members are meeting up again – our regional committees have also restarted in-person events across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Alongside the welcome return of in-person events, both the team in London and the regional committees are continuing online-only and live-streamed events. So where once you needed to be within commuting distance of an event, you can now watch from wherever you are. And where the facilities mean we're not able to live-stream, we're recording as many events as we can, so you can enjoy them later.

As you rediscover the pleasures and opportunities of meeting other Fellows and members once again, please do consider recommending membership of the Society to others. Joining as a member or Young Geographer is quick and easy online, or why not propose someone for Fellowship and share the benefits of membership?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe".

Professor Joe Smith
Director



Society News

Our doors are open once again

The Society has successfully moved into the next stage of reopening and we are now welcoming Fellows, members and the public to our facilities and in-person events. At the time of writing, most restrictions have been lifted, although you still need to pre-book for all events and we recommend that you wear a mask. The bar is now open before and after Monday night lectures.

We recommend checking our website for the most up to date information on visiting requirements.

W www.rgs.org/visiting-the-society

Medal and award nominations

All Fellows and members of the Society are invited to make a nomination for our annual medals and awards. The deadline for all 2022 nominations is 5.00pm on 7 February 2022.

W www.rgs.org/medalsandawards

Black History Month

Throughout October, we shared online lectures and a new online exhibition to highlight how Black people have contributed to the Society and to a better understanding of our world.

The exhibition, *The Lost Voices in the Archive*, was based on research by Dr Kate Simpson, who used our Collections to identify the African men and women in the expeditions of David Livingstone. Recordings of lectures by Professor Patricia Daley, Dr Caroline Bressey and Dr Patricia Noxolo were made available to the public.

W www.rgs.org/BHM2021

Gift memberships

Our Ordinary Member and Young Geographer memberships unlock a world of inspiration. Purchase a gift online by 17 December for delivery before Christmas.

W www.rgs.org/gift



Hurley Portfolio

A new limited-edition publication brings together for the first time all of Frank Hurley's original *Endurance* negatives. With negatives from the Society's Collections and the Scott Polar Research Institute, this comprehensive portfolio will contribute to the visual legacy of Shackleton's expedition. The portfolio will include 60 loose-leaf platinum-palladium prints, offering enhanced visualisation using glass plate negatives exposed by Hurley before the sinking of the *Endurance*. The portfolio will be released in January 2022.

W www.rgsprintstore.com

E hurleyprints@rgs.org



Education News

Equality diversity and inclusion report

We recently published a report titled *I didn't have any teachers that looked like me*, based on the experiences of Black, Asian and minority ethnic geographers, who had been previously supported through the Geography Initial Teacher Training Scholarships programme. This summer they were invited to discuss and share their experiences of studying and teaching geography, covering themes of representation, identity and race, stereotyping, career pathways and geography in education.

The participants explored a range of issues including their motivations to choose geography, the experience of studying geography itself and their development as geography teachers.

W www.rgs.org/BAMEexperiences

Stay Home Stories

As part of an Arts and Humanities Research Council Funded project, Stay Home Stories, led by Queen Mary University of London, colleagues at the University of Liverpool have been working with the Society and National Museums Liverpool on a national children's mapping initiative. The maps, depicting how the geography of children's home and local places changed during the COVID-19 lockdowns, have revealed several themes relating to how children depict places within and beyond their homes, with a particular focus on their special and personal spaces.

W www.rgs.org/stayhome



Join our network of advocates

We have been supported by the Flotilla Foundation to produce new online resources that enable secondary school pupils to learn more about the Weddell Sea, Antarctica. We are also developing a series of social media initiatives to further amplify information about Antarctic and oceanic conservation led by advocates chosen from our Geography Ambassadors and Early Career Teachers networks. To get involved contact education@rgs.org for further information.

W www.rgs.org/dws

Young Geographer of the Year winners

This year's competition winners will soon be announced. Visit our website to see the winning annotated maps made with the theme 'Remapping our lives' as well as the Rex Walford Award winning teacher.

W www.rgs.org/ygoty

Ambassadors return

Our Geography Ambassadors scheme connects geography pupils with undergraduate, postgraduate or recent graduate geographers who share their passion through engaging sessions in schools and beyond. Our Ambassadors are once again available to visit schools in-person, or online, to showcase the benefits of studying geography.

W www.rgs.org/geographyambassadors

Geography uptake rising

We are very pleased to see the study and value of geography continue to grow with an increased uptake in students entering the subject at GCSE, A Level and undergraduate level. There has been a rise of 4.2% at GCSE and 16.8% at A Level.

W www.rgs.org/choosegeography



From the field News

Grants

Every year we support over 40 student fieldwork projects with our range of grants, many of which have application deadlines coming up in the new year. Undergraduate students can obtain funding of between £500 and £3,000 and PhD students up to £6,000 to undertake a range of fieldwork overseas.

In the context of COVID-19, the Society is continuing to award grants, with funding that will be released when it is safe and responsible for researchers to go into the field and full institution approvals are in place.

W www.rgs.org/grants

In the field

Despite the challenges and restrictions of COVID-19, researchers funded by our grants programme have been undertaking fieldwork over the last 18 months.

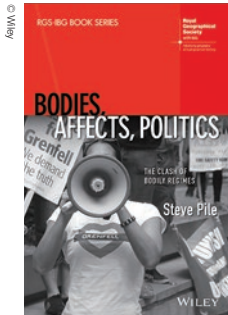
Lydia Katsis, PhD student at the University of Southampton, researched combining data on acoustic landscapes with anti-poaching patrol data, to improve anti-poaching patrol design in the tropical forests of Belize.

Dr Elia Apostolopoulou, University of Cambridge, interviewed policymakers, environmental NGOs and local communities in Greece where major conflicts around renewable energy have emerged.

Doctoral student William Harcourt, University of Bristol, assessed the changing Hansbreen Glacier in Svalbard using a novel deployment of a millimeter-wave radar, a terrestrial laser scanner and a time-lapse camera.

W www.rgs.org/in-the-field

Research and higher education News



Society book series

This year marks 21 years of the RGS-IBG book series. Our latest publication *Bodies, Affects, Politics: The Clash of Bodily Regimes* by Steve Pile is out now.

Upcoming titles include *Geomorphology and the Carbon Cycle* by Martin Evans; *How Cities Learn* by Astrid Wood; and *Defensible Space* by Loretta Lees and Elanor Warwick. Society members get 35% discount on the book series.

W www.rgs.org/bookseries

New to teaching guide

The Society is pleased to announce the publication of a new, practical guide for higher education teaching assistants, teaching fellows and demonstrators who are new to teaching geography, earth and environmental sciences. Following our successful event series with Dr Lynda Yorke (Bangor University) and Professor Simon Tate (Newcastle University), the guide explores key issues; from pedagogies and technology, to inclusion and fieldwork. More information about the guide and forthcoming events can be found on our website.

W www.rgs.org/HResources



Career webinars on-demand

Our *Use geography* career webinars are now available to watch on demand. Each one features a panel of professional geographers from a particular sector who share their experiences and advice for those just starting out in that sector. You'll also find a range of other resources, advice and helpful links relevant to each sector. Whether you're taking the first steps towards your career or are thinking of applying your experience to something new, visit our *Use geography* page and select the sector that interests you.

W www.rgs.org/usegeography

WDA research fellow reports

The Society has partnered with Wiley on an extensive digitisation programme of substantial parts of its pre-1945 Collections. Digitised materials are now available via the Wiley Digital Archives (WDA) platform.

To enable access, we're delighted to announce that the Wiley Digital Archives Research Fellowships will be running in 2021-2022. The application deadline is 13 December. Visit the website to find out how to apply.

Reports created by our current Wiley Digital Archive Research Fellows highlight the value of the extensive digitisation of our Collections. These reports provide insights on several areas, including the development of air-mindedness during the jet age in Africa, low-latitude historical aurorae and animals in the Society's archives.

W www.rgs.org/wdafellowship



Professional News

Professional mentoring

We run mentoring to support geography professionals working towards gaining the professional accreditation of Chartered Geographer, and to current Chartered Geographers who have a specific mentoring goal.

The benefits of mentoring to support career and professional development are well known, providing invaluable advice, guidance and support which can be vital at all stages of careers.

Mentors and mentees both benefit from the relationship, learning from each other and gaining valuable insights.

Find out more about becoming a mentee or a mentor on our website or email.

E cgeog@rgs.org

W www.rgs.org/cgeog

Accessible geovisualisation

As part of the Society's ongoing geovisualisation programme we recently published tips from Jessica Baker on making mapping accessible to those with colour blindness.

Jessica won a Geography in Government Award in 2020 for her ground-breaking work which means the 1 in 12 men and 1 in 200 woman who are affected by colour blindness can access Ordnance Survey mapping with far more ease than before.

This project has far reaching benefits for both professional geographers working with geographical information systems and geography students who have been struggling with the traditional colour scales used in the classroom.

W www.rgs.org/accessiblemapping

Events Highlights



Panel Earth (revel) © Panel 8 Photography

At the time of writing, all of the Society's in-person events, including Monday night lectures, continue to require booking. You will notice all events for which pre-booking is essential are marked with a **B** in the following programme.

Live streams and online recordings will ensure that no matter where you are you can still connect with inspiring speakers, new ideas and opportunities to develop.

Fellows and members can access the live stream of our Monday night lectures by logging in to the Members' Area and accessing our Livestream page. If you haven't previously logged in, you can set a password using the 'forgotten password' link on the login page.

W www.rgs.org/events

Spring events programme

This spring we will welcome another fantastic programme of lectures, talks and events both in person and online. While many of the coronavirus restrictions in our building have been lifted, we will continue to keep the safety of you and our staff a priority and will adjust our procedures as required. As changes might be required at short notice, please check our website before travelling.



Spring 2022 events

Monday night lectures at a glance

6.30pm-7.45pm


RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR or online at **W** www.rgs.org/livestream

Date	Title	Speaker
10 January	The art and science of wayfinding	Michael Bond
17 January	Latitude	Nicholas Crane
24 January	MOVE: how mass migration will reshape the world and what it means for you	Parag Khanna
31 January	Directing economic growth: a mission-oriented approach	Professor Mariana Mazzucato
7 February	The Amur River: between Russia and China	Colin Thubron
14 February	What's philosophy got to do with it?	Professor Carmody Grey
21 February	Footprints	Professor David Farrier
28 February	Life changing	Dr Helen Pilcher
7 March	Navigating our way towards a plastic-free ocean	Emily Penn
14 March	The social instinct	Professor Nichola Raihani
21 March	Lava lore: chasing volcanoes	Professor Clive Oppenheimer
28 March	Cycling 3,407 miles around pandemic Britain	Simon Parker
4 April	Life lessons from the Amazon	Pip Stewart

Events listings

(in chronological order)

Key to events

- B** Book tickets in advance
M Members only
M+G Members plus one guest
 Continuing professional development for the Chartered Geographer scheme

Events booking

You can find more information and book tickets online

W www.rgs.org/events, email **E** events@rgs.org or call us on **T** 020 7591 3100 (10.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday). Our staff will be more than happy to guide you through the booking process and answer any questions you may have.

Please note that unexpected changes to events may occur, especially those planned to take place in person, please check our website for up-to-date information.

We're Good to Go

We want you to feel confident and safe when you visit us. On our website we explain how we are keeping staff and visitors COVID-secure based on the latest government and public health guidelines.

W www.rgs.org/good-to-go

The Society has 'We're Good to Go' COVID-19 industry standard accreditation in partnership with The National Tourist Organisations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which recognises we have followed government and industry COVID-19 guidelines, ensuring processes are in place to maintain cleanliness.

Online events

All Society-organised online events can be booked and watched via our website. Search for the individual event page on **W** www.rgs.org/whatson. You will be able to ask your questions and interact with the speakers if you join live.

Monday night lectures

Fellows and members can access the live stream of our Monday night lectures by logging in to the Members' Area and accessing our live stream page **W** www.rgs.org/livestream. If you haven't previously logged in, you can set a password using the 'forgotten password' link on the login page.

You will need to book in advance to attend our Monday night lectures in-person at the Society this term. We are continuing to take bookings should we be required to reduce the capacity of those in attendance.

Accessibility

Wheelchair spaces are available in the Ondaatje Theatre at the Society. A personal assistant or carer can usually be accommodated. Please contact the Events Office in advance on **T** 020 7591 3100 **E** events@rgs.org Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing impairments. An accessible toilet is available.

Opportunity to meet other members

The Younger Members' Committee will host an informal get-together on Zoom following the live stream of each Monday night lecture from 7.45pm.

B M+G Monday 10 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

The art and science of wayfinding

Michael Bond

Michael explores how our brains keep us orientated, why some people are so much better at navigating than others, and what it means to be lost in the age of GPS. [At the Society and online.](#) [Free.](#)



B Tuesday 11 January 4.00pm - 6.00pm

Workshop (online)

Maths for teachers of A Level geography

These free, online sessions are for geography teachers who wish to build their confidence in teaching the mathematical content of A Level geography. The sessions will look at a range of statistical content. We will model approaches to teaching mathematical content and share ideas on how to engage students in meaningful discussions about data in geography. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)

B Wednesday 12 January 5.00pm - 5.30pm

Lecture (online)

Can veganism help save the planet?

Dr Richard White

Anarchist geographer Richard, provides an introductory discussion of an issue central to ecological ethics. Joint event with Sheffield Hallam University Geography Environment and Planning Group. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)



B Wednesday 12 January

5.00pm - 5.45pm

Workshop (online)

Case study update: River Exe, Devon and Germany's 2021 floods

Anya Starling

Anya will provide an update for both case studies and will also show how Google Earth can be used as a tool to get students doing geography when logistics mean that an actual field visit to your chosen case study location isn't possible. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)

B Wednesday 12 January 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

A history of Polperro, as revealed by artists

David Tovey

Using images of artists' depictions of the housing, harbour-scape and cliff setting of Polperro to provide a history of its transformation, from smuggling centre to fishing haven, to tourist destination. Organised by the South West regional committee. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)

B Thursday 13 January 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Pedal for parks: 14 days over sea and land

Pedal 4 Parks cycled over land and sea (on waterbikes) from the Orkney Islands to the Isles of Scilly, doing this as ecologically friendly as possible and filming the experience, visiting National Parks on their journey. Organised by the South regional committee. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)

B M+G Monday 17 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

Latitude

Nicholas Crane

The longitude story has captivated millions worldwide, but who measured latitude? The world's first international scientific expedition was an extraordinary saga of surveying, mountaineering and murder set in equatorial South America.

At the Society and online. Free.

B Tuesday 18 January 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (online)

**Penguins, polar bears and passion:
a photographer's adventure**

Sue Flood

Sue has travelled extensively chronicling the awesome natural history of this planet. She will share her passion for photography and the understanding of these remote places and their wildlife. Organised by the East of England regional committee. Online. Free.



B Tuesday 18 January 7.15pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Transformations to groundwater sustainability

Professor Frances Cleaver

Frances brings development and social theory to engage with field research and explore the dynamics of community based natural resource management. Joint event with York & District GA and Bootham School. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Online. Free.



B Wednesday 19 January

7.00pm - 8.30pm

Workshop (online)

Online secondary geography teachmeet

We will be asking geography teachers to share their ideas and innovation with the teaching community. Teachmeets are a great way to find out what fellow teachers are doing in the classroom and beyond. Delegates will be able to view around seven individual sessions from a variety of geography teachers and take away a range of ideas, resources and experiences. Online. Free.

B Monday 24 January 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Be Inspired afternoon lecture (London)

**Lucy Atkinson: one of the greats
in the pantheon of travellers**

Nick Fielding

Arguably one of the greatest women explorers of all time, from 1848 until 1853, Lucy Atkinson, in company with her husband and newly born baby, travelled on horseback over 40,000 miles in some of the most remote and hostile regions of Central Asia and Siberia. At the Society. £5, RGS-IBG members free.



B M+G Monday 24 January

6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

**MOVE: how mass migration will reshape
the world and what it means for you**

Parag Khanna

All the forces that compel people to uproot themselves are accelerating: labour shortages, political upheaval, economic crises, technological disruption, and climate change. What will the map of humanity look like in 2050? At the Society and online. Free.

B Tuesday 25 January 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Lecture (online)

**The Spanish and Mexican
origins of Texas cattle ranching**

Professor William Doolittle

The history of the Texas cowboy extends back through the marshes of eastern Mexico to the marshes of southern Spain. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee. [Online](#). [Free](#).



**B Wednesday 26 January
4.00pm - 6.00pm**

Workshop (online)

Maths for teachers of A Level geography

Ideal for geography teachers who wish to build their confidence in teaching the mathematical content of A Level geography. The sessions will look at a range of statistical content. We will model approaches to teaching mathematical content and share ideas on how to engage students in meaningful discussions about data in geography. [Online](#). [Free](#).



**B Wednesday 26 January
5.00pm - 6.00pm**

Workshop (online)

Data ethics in geography teaching

Doug Specht

Ethics is becoming an increasingly important area of consideration when working with geographic data. Industry concerns over privacy, ownership of data, and how data is used, form part of project planning and implementation. For students, geography research ethics has often focused on notions of consent related to traditional research methods, such as surveys or interviews. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B M+G Monday 31 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

**Directing economic growth:
a mission-oriented approach**

Professor Mariana Mazzucato

This lecture will make the case for rethinking the role of government in the economy, drawing on Professor Mazzucato's recent, widely acclaimed book, *Mission Economy: A moonshot guide to changing capitalism*. At the Society and online. [Free](#).

B Thursday 3 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Making space for nature

Brian Blease

Brian will discuss priorities and opportunities for rewilding and nature recovery networks to limit the impact of climate change. Joint event with the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Organised by the South regional committee. [Online](#). [Free](#)

B Thursday 3 February 7.15pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Play and the city

Professor Alison Stenning

Alison is a social geographer with a particular interest in everyday and emotional geographies, and in the relationships we build with our streets and neighbourhoods. Joint event with York & District GA and Bootham School. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B Monday 7 February 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Be Inspired afternoon lecture (London)

Animals in the Royal Geographical Society's Archives

Dr Catherine Oliver

Drawing on research in Wiley Digital Archives, Catherine's talk explores the contributions of animals to geographical knowledge and the traces they have left in the Society's Collections. [At the Society.](#) £5, RGS-IBG members free.

B M+G Monday 7 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

The Amur River: between Russia and China

Colin Thubron

The Amur river, the tenth longest in the world, forms the perilous border between Russia and China. Colin followed it for almost 3,000 miles. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.



B Wednesday 9 February

5.00pm - 5.30pm

Lecture (online)

Sustainable, equitable and resilient cities

Anna Hawkins

Anna provides an introduction to the critical challenges facing cities in the face of accelerating environmental change. Joint event with Sheffield Hallam University Geography Environment and Planning Group. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. [Online.](#) Free.

B M+G Monday 14 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

What's philosophy got to do with it?

Professor Carmody Grey

The way we talk about the environmental crisis always expresses a worldview. Philosophy can help us expose the implications of such worldviews, and ask whether they are helpful or not. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

Tuesday 15 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Poole)

Fighting Julius Caesar: archaeology, science and history

Professor Andrew Fitzpatrick

Does an Iron Age burial site found near Chichester bring us face-to-face with a man who fought against Caesar? Organised by the South regional committee. [Lawrence Lecture Theatre, Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, BH12 5BB.](#) Free.

B Wednesday 16 February 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Lecture (Plymouth)

Invasive aliens: the plants and animals from over there that are over here

Dan Eatherley

Our countryside is filled with grey squirrels and parakeets, snowdrops and pheasants, rhododendrons and rabbits, none of which are indigenous to Britain. The story of invasive species is the story of our own past, present and future. [Plymouth University, Portland Square, PL4 8AA.](#) Free.

B Wednesday 16 February 7.15pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

Stealing nature's energy:

Scotland and the Andes by glider

John Williams

John will describe and illustrate his own journey from learning to fly to understanding the signs in the sky and its almost invisible energy. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. Elmwood Building, Queen's University Belfast, Elmwood Avenue, BT7 1NN. Free.



B Thursday 17 February 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (online)

**The challenges of managing a
21st century World Heritage Site**

Jane Gibson

Balancing conservation and development in a rapidly changing world presents significant challenges but also opportunities for living UNESCO sites like Durham. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Online. Free.

B Friday 18 February 7.15pm - 8.15pm

Lecture (Chester)

On the trail of T.E. Lawrence: 1908-1911

Dr Nick Lynch

Nick will talk about his journeys following the young Lawrence of Arabia prior to the outbreak of World War One, including cycling the majority of Lawrence's 2,500 mile tour of France. Joint event with Chester Cathedral. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee.

Chester Cathedral. £9.50, RGS-IBG and TE Laurence Society members £7.50.

Saturday 19 February 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

In the footsteps of Marco Polo

Andrew Hayden

A rare chance to see an amazing piece of cinematography documenting the famous 1931 La Croisière Jaune expedition, sponsored by Citroen, through central Asia from Beirut to Beijing. Organised by the East of England regional committee. St Andrew's Centre, Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, NR7 0LH. Free.

B M+G Monday 21 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

Footprints

Professor David Farrier

Join David, author of *Footprints: In Search of Future Fossils*, to explore what traces of the 21st century will endure ten thousand or even ten million years from now. At the Society and online. Free.

B Tuesday 22 February 7.15pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Huddersfield)

Trading with the dragon: China in Africa

Gillian Miller

Is China investing in Africa for altruistic reasons or to secure resources and influence? Joint event with Huddersfield and Halifax GA. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Joseph Priestley Lecture Theatre Room, University of Huddersfield, HD1 3DH. Free.



B Thursday 24 February
7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (online)

**Infrastructures in crisis:
waste, labour, and COVID-19**

Angeliki Balayannis

Angeliki examines the UK's unfolding response to COVID-19, through the experiences of key workers maintaining critical infrastructures. Joint event with the University of Exeter. Organised by the South West regional committee. *Online. Free.*



Thursday 24 February 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

**Explaining COP26: the de-brief
from the climate conference**

Asher Minns

Asher, a climate communicator from the Tyndall Centre will enlighten us on the outcomes of COP26, and some possibilities and implications for our region. Organised by the East of England regional committee. Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £5 on entry, RGS-IBG members and students free.

B M+G Monday 28 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

Life changing

Dr Helen Pilcher

Find out how humans are changing the evolutionary fate of all life on Earth. Expect pizzly bears, cloned polo ponies and genetically modified wolves. *At the Society and online. Free.*

B Tuesday 2 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

What happens to our waste?

Everyday we all throw objects away, but do you know what happens to the waste we produce? We will ask our experts and share tips for how we can make more conscious decisions about reusing products.

At the Society and online. In-person £10, RGS-IBG members £8. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



B Wednesday 2 March 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Workshop (online)

Digimap for Schools for primary geography

Darren Bailey

We introduce Digimap for Schools and how it can be used across the primary curriculum. Darren, from the Ordnance Survey, will work through its functionality, map layers and more during an online demonstration, and will also provide ideas on how to use Digimap for Schools with KS1 and KS2 students. *Online. Free.*



Thursday 3 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Talk (Penryn)

A new dawn for the energy transition

Sally Worbe

Lithium is key in the transition to clean energy, given its role in electric vehicles and renewable energy grid storage. Joint event with the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall. Organised by the South West regional committee. *University of Exeter Penryn Campus, Treliever Road, TR10 9FE. Free.*

B Sunday 6 March 11.45am - 4.00pm

Walk (Leamington Spa)

Sunday stroll, lunch and social

Join us for a short guided walk, informal lunch and social followed by geographical chat. Drop in for a short time or stay longer! Organised by the Midlands regional committee. *Book by 3 March and full details given with booking. £7.*

B Monday 7 March 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Be Inspired afternoon lecture (London)

Geraldine Rendel's trans-Arabian journey in 1937

William Facey

By the 1930s Saudi Arabia was becoming a magnet for explorers, oilmen and diplomats, crossing the desert in the newly-introduced motorcar. Geraldine Rendel accompanied her diplomat husband and her diary, as the first non-Muslim European woman to travel openly establishes her as the first recognisably modern tourist there. *At the Society. £5, RGS-IBG members free.*



**B M+G Monday 7 March
6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture (online and London)

Navigating our way towards a plastic-free ocean

Emily Penn

Having spent a decade at sea, exploring plastic pollution from the tropics to the Arctic, Emily will share her adventures connecting her scientific insights from eXXpedition to upstream solutions on land. *At the Society and online. Free.*

Tuesday 8 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Portsmouth)

Why geography is crucial to understanding the sinking of the *Mary Rose* in 1545

Dr Dominic Fontana

This talk explains how and why local geographical factors were crucial in influencing a battle which determined the fate of the English crown and the subsequent history of the nation. Organised by the South regional committee. *University of Portsmouth, Geograthe, Lion Terrace, PO1 3HE. Free.*



B Wednesday 9 March 5.00pm - 5.30pm

Lecture (online)

How melting ice will affect people in the (near) future

Dr Rob Storrar

Rob is a glaciologist who studies the dynamics and legacy of glacier retreat. Here he introduces the implications of ice melt for global populations. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. *Online. Free.*

B Thursday 10 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Short talks (online and London)

Geographical journeys: microlectures

An informal evening of short illustrated talks packed with tales of adventure and discovery to entertain and inspire. Organised by the Younger Members' Committee. *At the Society and online. In-person: £12, RGS-IBG members £9. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £4.*

B Monday 14 March 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Be Inspired afternoon lecture (online)

Airmindedness redux: growing tourism and worldliness through aeromobility in Africa

Dr Bradley Rink

Drawing on research in Wiley Digital Archives, Bradley's talk discusses how archival marginalia such as inflight magazines and other travel paraphernalia from the dawn of the jet-age in Africa were used to promote intra-African and global tourism. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B M+G Monday 14 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

The social instinct

Professor Nichola Raihani

Nichola will lead us on an exhilarating, far-reaching, and thought-provoking journey through all life on Earth, with profound insights into what makes us human and how our societies work. [At the Society and online](#). [Free](#).



B Tuesday 15 March 9.45am - 4.30pm

Workshop (London)

Educational visits coordinator training

Essential training for new EVCs responsible for the policies and practice around risk management for out-of-school visits. [At the Society](#). £280, RGS-IBG members £252.



B Wednesday 16 March 9.45am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

Educational visits coordinator update

This course gives trained EVCs the opportunity to revalidate while looking at current issues and sharing good practice. [At the Society](#). £280, RGS-IBG members £252.



B Wednesday 16 March

5.00pm - 6.00pm

Workshop (online)

Digimap for Schools for secondary geography

Darren Bailey

We introduce Digimap for Schools and how it can be used across the KS3 geography curriculum. Darren, from the Ordnance Survey, will work through its functionality, map layers and more during an online demonstration, and will also provide ideas on how to use Digimap for Schools with KS3 students. [Online](#). [Free](#).

Thursday 17 March 5.30pm - 7.00pm

Lecture (Newcastle)

Pocketbooks, cairns and carrier pigeons: polar postal systems

Nancy Campbell

Nancy explores textual practice in the north, and considers how contemporary readers salvage and interpret these often fragmentary documents. Joint event with Tyneside Geographical Society. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building, Newcastle University, NE1 7RY. [Free](#).



B Thursday 17 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Geographers in Government: an overview of the Government Geography Profession

Clare Hadley

This talk examines the role of geographers in the public sector and the key roles they play in supporting the Government. Organised by the South regional committee. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B M+G Monday 21 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

Lava lore: chasing volcanoes

Professor Clive Oppenheimer

Clive's lecture will offer personal, cultural and historical perspectives on volcanoes, touching on their diverse activity, means of monitoring, and the societal impacts of Earth's largest eruptions. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

Thursday 24 March 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

Far from land: our knowledge of what seabirds do at sea

Dr Michael Brooke

Over the past 30 years, it has become possible to document the geographical movements and activities of seabirds when they are out of sight and beyond the horizon of the land-bound observer. It is these findings that form the basis of Michael's talk. Organised by the East of England regional committee. [Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD.](#) £5 on entry, RGS-IBG members and students free.

B M+G Monday 28 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

Cycling 3,407 miles around pandemic Britain

Simon Parker

Feeling anxious and depressed, travel writer Simon hit the road. This ground-level portrait of a nation bouncing back from the toughest period in recent history will be published in April 2022. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

B Tuesday 29 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

What should travel look like in 2022?

Join our panel to discuss the future of travel. We will discuss how tourism can be an economic driver and how we ensure tourism is a positive force for the locals and not a threat to their culture. [At the Society and online.](#) In-person £10, RGS-IBG members £8. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



B Wednesday 30 March 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Workshop (London)

Map skills and online mapping for primary geography

Darren Bailey

This course is aimed at KS1 and KS2 teachers who are interested in developing spatial awareness skills linked to the primary geography curriculum. Run in conjunction with Ordnance Survey. [At the Society.](#) Free.

Monday 4 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture (online and London)

Life lessons from the Amazon

Pip Stewart

This is the tale of an incredible three-month kayaking adventure through Guyana's unexplored jungle terrain – with learnings that may bring inspiration to how you approach life and travel. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

B Date and time TBC

Panel discussion (London)

Intrepid women

Bryony Dixon and Dr Sarah Evans

Meet the women explorer-filmmakers who blazed their own trail. Join us for this illustrated talk introducing some of the early women explorers and their films – including Rosita Forbes, Stella Court-Treatt, Hettie Dyhrenfurth, Osa Johnson and aviation legend Amy Johnson. Joint event with the British Film Institute.
BFI Southbank, Belvedere Road, SE1 8XT.

Regional events

Events are open to all unless otherwise stated. Please bring your RGS-IBG membership card to events and contact venues directly about the facilities available and accessibility.

Thank you to all our Fellows and members who are involved in organising regional events.

For more information on any of the events run by the regional committees or to get involved yourself please see the website or get in touch with a Regional Event Organiser.

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A new chapter for Fellowship

Bye Law changes agreed


© RGS-IBG



At the Special General Meeting in September, Fellows voted in favour of a series of changes to the Society's Bye Laws, which set out our objective, constitution and categories of membership.

Fellows and members are the heart of the Society and our charitable work supporting geography and geographers simply would not be possible without their support. It is therefore essential that we regularly reflect on the best ways to serve our Fellows and members, connect with new people, and share our resources and opportunities.

The main changes to the Bye Laws have sought to ensure that our criteria for joining and benefits of membership are inclusive and offer the best possible experience for the diverse, yet equally passionate, people who seek to learn and develop within geography.



One of the key changes that will be implemented in April 2022 is the introduction of a new sub-category of Fellowship called Associate Fellow. This category will be for geographers studying at postgraduate level and early career geographers, including teachers. This new category will gradually replace the current Postgraduate Fellowship and form an effective stepping-stone from study into career as Associate Fellows will receive targeted career support and resources at an accessible price.

In parallel to the introduction of Associate Fellowship, we will be renaming Young Geographer membership as Student Membership to make it clearer who this category is for. Geography graduates who are currently Young Geographers will move to the Associate Fellow category, where we will be able to provide them with more appropriate support.

The Bye Law changes have also removed the requirement for applicants for Fellowship to be seconded by an existing Fellow, which reduces a known barrier for many wanting to join the Society

Introducing the ability to hold online AGMs and SGMs, and enable digital voting means that we are now better placed to include Fellows and members who are unable to travel to London in our governance, increasing representation across our wide range of constituents.

Everyone affected by these changes will be contacted directly in due course with information that outlines what they will mean for them. If you have any initial questions, we invite you to contact us. The new Bye Laws can be read on our website.

E membership@rgs.org

W www.rgs.org/byelaws

A right to an education

Earth Photo 2021 winner

From the 55 shortlisted photographs and four films the judging panel, including Society Director Professor Joe Smith and photojournalist and documentary photographer Marisa Roth, selected the six category winners. Rosie Hallam was chosen as the overall winner with her stunning submission to the People category, *A Right to an Education*.

Hallam's trio of images depict an Ethiopian farming family. The portraits show a mother, Meselech, a father, Marco and their daughter, Selamaw. The images highlight the importance and value of education. The family participate in an education programme with The Luminos Fund which connects children who have been excluded from school due to poverty, discrimination or conflict with opportunities to learn. The young girl depicted at work by a window is the first member of her family to continue in education past primary age.

© Rosie Hallam, 2019





© Rose Hallam, 2013

Hallam sought to capture the hope and possibility of education, which can improve social wellbeing, economic growth and security, gender equality, and peace.

Director of the Society, Professor Joe Smith, said: “Just like the subject of geography, Earth Photo invites photographers and filmmakers, and their audiences, to take an integrated, whole-system view of the relationships between humans and their world. The resulting images invite a range of responses, including curiosity, wonder, care and concern.”

The Earth Photo exhibition was on display this summer in the Society's Pavilion and is now touring selected Forestry England locations. It can be found at Moors Valley, Dorset, until 19 December; and indoors at Grizedale, Cumbria, from 20 December 2021 to 24 April 2022.

W www.rgs.org/earthphoto



Meet the President

Q&A with Nigel Clifford



© Geographical Commission

Tell us a little about your relationship with geography

A couple of outstanding teachers set me on the path to studying geography as a degree.

I then joined the business world and continued to evangelise the benefits of 'geographical' thinking – relevant to emerging use of 'ecosystems' and 'systems thinking' in commerce.

I received the offer of a lifetime in 2015 to run Ordnance Survey. This was a great experience and led to a role with the UK's first Geospatial Commission as Deputy Chair in 2018.


What do you think makes geography especially important today?

Choices regarding 'space' are at the heart of many of humanity's challenges. Therefore we, as geographers, must make our voices heard in the realms of policy, learning and practice. The COP26 summit underlined this and was a great opportunity to show how geography can find solutions.

What about your fellow geographers inspires you?

I have three things.

- Insatiable curiosity – constantly looking for insights and connections.
- Interdisciplinary embrace – eager to engage with all disciplines.
- Professionalism – ensuring that advice and outputs are reliable.



What do you find most rewarding in your work?

I love variety, so the mix of activities at the Society is very exciting. I also like being able to transfer ideas across sectors.

You're six months into being President of the Society, how have your impressions of the organisation changed?

I have a greater appreciation of the breadth of work being done centrally and regionally in education, research, fieldwork and in caring for the fabric and Collections of the Society.

What's the most surprising thing you've done as President so far?

I really enjoyed the launch of the annual conference. As well as excellent welcome speeches, we were treated to an inspiring and poetical session from Lemn Sissay and then an astonishing performance from Catrin Finch and Seckou Keita. Fantastic!

What do you hope to achieve during your tenure

I want to see the Society's strategy striding forward, encouraging us to continue to be vocal on the most important issues, contributing ideas and questioning the status quo. I also want to make the Society the place for academics, professionals and policy makers – as well as interested members of wider society – to coalesce to further their thinking, capabilities and careers.

How do you hope to see the Society grow?

It will be great to encourage more young members to start and continue their engagement with geography through us. It will also be wonderful to nurture a disparate and diverse community – regionally and internationally.

Self-guided exploring New outdoor walking app from OS

Ordnance Survey (OS) has recently launched a new smartphone app that aims to get more of us outdoors and enjoying the UK, and the Society is a major contributor of content.

Like the Society's Discovering Britain project, Secret Stories is a series of self-guided walks through a wide range of landscapes across the UK. And, like Discovering Britain, these walks uncover some of the many intriguing geographical stories of our environment that would otherwise remain hidden.

Given the similar aims of Secret Stories and Discovering Britain, the Society has been working in partnership with OS to load many of our Discovering Britain walks onto the new app, making them much more accessible and easier to follow when you're out and about.



Bridford Quayville © RGS-IBG



The Waters meeting © RGS-IBG



Once you've downloaded the Secret Stories app, you can browse a list of walks or use the map to find walks near where you are.

Just some of the Discovering Britain walks now available on the Secret Stories app include:

Trading Town

Discover Bideford's seafaring heritage

This north Devon town has a rich maritime history – it was once one of England's great ports. In this walk you'll discover how its success was built on its location, a great Elizabethan adventurer and some entrepreneurial merchants.

Liquid Asset

Explore the unique river at the heart of Winchester

The River Itchen is one of only 240 chalk streams in the world. In this walk you'll discover how it helped Winchester to become the capital of England.



Banglatown and the Bengali East End

Explore London's thriving
British Bengali community

Tower Hamlets is home to the UK's largest Bengali community and there is evidence that a small number of Bengalis lived in London nearly 400 years ago. In this walk you'll explore the community's significant contribution to UK culture – from music and food to politics and architecture.

Walking on Water

Trace London's underground
water from Islington to Blackfriars

Water is a vital feature of most settlements, and London, built on the banks of the Thames is no exception. In this walk you'll discover lost natural springs, visit former breweries and holy wells and walk on water without getting your feet wet.

The Secret Stories app is available to download for free in both the Google Play and iTunes store and contains a range of free and paid-for walks starting at £2.99. The Society receives a share of royalties for the paid for Discovering Britain walks. OS is gradually adding more walks across Britain, so if your region is not covered yet, it soon will be.

All the Discovering Britain walks are still available for free on our website

W www.discoveringbritain.org



Bringing people together

Hiring our venue

With our doors open once more and restrictions lifting, now is a fantastic time to hire the Society's iconic building. We have the facilities to meet your event needs for in-person and hybrid events.

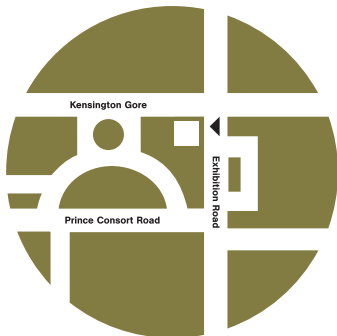
The Society is a striking and versatile venue for a wide range of occasions, combining the very best elements of face-to-face audience events with live streaming and other digital features. Our professional AV broadcast and recording facilities allow you to share your events digitally with remote audiences, live from the Society's stage.

Fellows and members also benefit from an exclusive reduced rate for private functions such as weddings or parties.

Visit our website to find out more about how we can make your wedding, dinner, conference, reception or lecture memorable.

W www.rgs.org/venue-hire

How to find us



Entrance is on Exhibition Road
Nearest Tube station South Kensington

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The Society is the learned society and professional body for geography. We support and promote geographical research, education, fieldwork and expeditions, and geography in society; we also advise on policy issues. The Society has substantial Collections available to all.

Corporate Partners

