

Geographical journeys: microlectures 2024

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Guidance for speaker applications

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The *microlectures*, as it is known, is an inspiring evening of short talks, which brings together a selection of less-experienced speakers chosen via an application process that is open to all, including non-members of the Society.

If you have a story to share of a recent personal experience that fits the theme of geographical journeys in the broadest sense, we would like to hear from you. The Society seeks to include a wide diversity of participants and subjects.

Applications to speak at the next event are open until Monday 6 November 2023. After the deadline, shortlisted applicants will be asked to audition either online. This is a supportive process with time for feedback and discussion, following which the organising committee will select the final talks.

Please apply in accordance with these guidelines.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligibility

All applicants must be over 16 (there is no upper age limit). Applications may be from Members or Fellows of the Society, as well as non-members.

If selected to speak, a non-member is required to join the Society before the speaker line-up is published in late January. The organising committee can assist in facilitating a joining application.

Those who have spoken at a microlectures event in the previous two years are not eligible to apply to speak.

Application

Please email ymc@rgs.org with the following details by 11.55pm on **Monday 6 November 2023**:

- Name
- Confirmation that you are over 16
- Title of your talk
- 100 word description of your talk
- Contact phone number

Your details will be passed on to the Younger Members' Committee who are organising this event.

Format of a 'microlecture'

Speakers have a maximum of 10 minutes to give their talk accompanied by a visual presentation. After each talk there will be five minutes of questions from the audience before moving on to the next speaker. The evening needs to keep to a tight schedule, so timing is important.

Content – building your talk

- Remember, the title of the overall event is 'geographical journeys' so your talk should reflect this, focusing on a journey with a geographical purpose or theme, and displaying an 'interest and enthusiasm for the world's peoples, places and environments'.
- Think of a captivating title for your talk.
- First-hand accounts of recent journeys are favoured over academic or historical content.
- Talks should not be a commercial pitch or an obvious endorsement. References to charity projects etc. as well as personal projects related to the subject are acceptable.
- Avoid a round-up of loosely related experiences. Focus on one story.
- Choose a strong title image. Aim for around 10-20 images, dependent on your pace. Your closing image may contain contact details, social media handles, and sponsor thanks if appropriate.
- Showing a map of your journey early on may be useful.
- Make sure your images tie in with your story, and edit them carefully.
- Avoid reading from notes word-for-word or from the slides (use your images as prompts if necessary or use cards with keywords).
- On the evening you and your talk title will be introduced by the host, so there is no need to say your name or explain what you will talk about – just start your talk straight away.
- Think about the structure of your talk. Identify the key points of your story and focus on these, rather than a range of smaller topics.
- Use the opportunity to engage with the audience. If there are any props which will help bring the story to life, feel free to bring them along (although please notify us in advance).
- Time and practice your lecture to make sure it doesn't run over the allotted ten minutes.
- Video material may be used to illustrate a section of your story. We strongly discourage the showing of film trailers, full story video summaries, and longer clips. We want you to recount your story. Video is best placed earlier on to avoid timing problems.
- Is there a conclusion to your story? Consider how you are going to round off your lecture.
- Keep it snappy and enjoy yourself – when you do, the audience will enjoy it too!

Recordings

It is recommended that you watch previous microlectures in the Talks on demand area of our website: www.rgs.org/talksondemand

Auditions

One of the committee will reply to your application by email to arrange an audition for those who are shortlisted. Exact dates will be confirmed individually, and **auditions will take place remotely online in November and December 2023.**

It is to the applicant's advantage to have their talk and slides in as good a shape as possible, but we do not expect the audition to be necessarily a final version of the applicant's microlecture. We will be looking for an engaging talk which is primarily an account of a personal experience, with insight into a particular area or aspect of geography. After your 'run through' you will be asked questions, as will happen on the night, and given feedback on content and presentation.

Following auditions, the committee organisers will meet to select the final line-up. No further feedback on unsuccessful applicant auditions can be given at this time. In selecting speakers, the

organisers will aim to put together a varied programme that will inform, inspire and entertain the audience with fresh stories about experiences of interesting places.

By agreeing to participate, successful applicants give permission for their name, the title of their presentation and their image illustrating the microlecture to be used in promotional material for the event. Press and publicity will be organised directly by the Society but speakers will be encouraged to publicise the event through their own social media channels as well.

This is not a formal members' Monday night lecture. Despite taking place in the Ondaatje Theatre, it is an informal event and provides an opportunity for the audience to hear 'snapshots' of experiences from around the world from our members. The audience will comprise a range of age groups, interests and expertise, from school pupils to experienced professionals. Some will be members of the Society and others will be the general public with enthusiasm and an interest in your topic.

Technical details for presentations

For the event the presentations should be either a PowerPoint or Keynote file (PowerPoint preferred). For the audition we use Zoom and Google Hangouts.

Content should be provided in 16:9 format; this fits our screens in the best ratio, however other formats such as 4:3 can be provided. The best resolution for our projector is 1080 pix (1920 x 1080)

Videos are normally shown with VLC, Q-lab, and Quick-time or via the Blu-ray player, so please supply MP4/MOV/AVI formats. You should bring the source for any video footage/internet links/audio (i.e. do not rely on shortcuts on your home PC). If embedded into the presentation, these should be saved in a separate folder on the memory stick as a backup.

NB for both auditions and the microlectures event, it is essential that you save your presentation as a PDF backup as well - bring this with you as it is the safest multi-platform format.

Event timings

5.30pm	Speakers' briefing and sound check
6.00pm	Doors open to ticket holders and Map Room bar opens
7.00pm	Introduction and three or four presentations
8.00pm	Interval (Map Room bar/networking)
8.30pm	Three presentations
9.30pm	End of presentations, informal networking in the Map Room bar
10.30pm	Event ends

About the Younger Members' Committee and other events


The Younger Members' Committee organise a programme of geographical events with a strong social element, aimed at both members and the wider public. The events provide an invaluable contribution to the Society's London activities, providing an opportunity for like-minded individuals to meet each other and to engage with geographical topics in an informal atmosphere.

Events are open to all, except wine tasting evenings and the Summer Garden Party, which are for over 18s.

Other regular events include a Christmas quiz, and an opportunity to experience the Society's Collections.

The committee is currently chaired by Annabel Illingworth. If you would like to find out more, or get involved in the Younger Members' Committee, please contact us:

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Events Office (9.30am-5.30pm Monday-Friday):

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 ymc@rgs.org

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Thank you for your interest and good luck!