

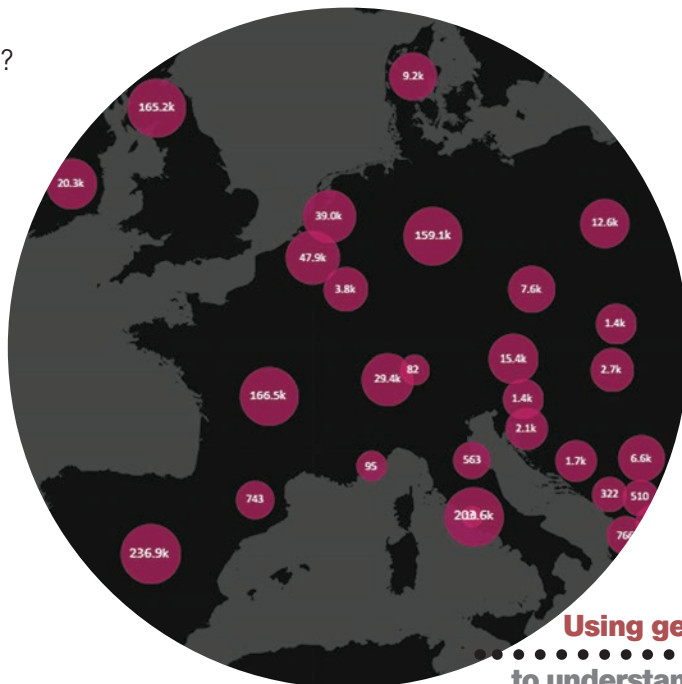
Bulletin Spring 2021

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

Inside

- News
- What's on?
- Our work



Using geography
.....
to understand COVID



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 President

The Society, along with most of the charitable sector, is facing serious financial challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ability to generate income through our venue hire business has been severely restricted. This will take a considerable time to rebuild, even when large gatherings are again permitted.

However, there have been some successes over the past few months as the Society has taken advantage of the move to digital delivery of services – income from digital image licences, for example, has been greater than forecast.

The Society's staff have successfully moved to working remotely where possible, allowing us to continue our work supporting geography and geographers in schools, universities and the workplace. During this time, we have seen increases in applications for Chartered Geographer

and large audiences for online teacher CPD sessions.

We have also moved towards a 'digital first' events programme and featured several overseas speakers, not hitherto included in our events. If you haven't already watched one of our live-streamed Monday night lectures, I recommend you do. Even once we are able to hold the lectures in the Ondaatje Theatre again, we shall continue to stream them so you may watch them, and ask questions, wherever you are.

Finally, I should like to thank you for your support for the Society during a very difficult year for us all. Your membership of the Society is vital if we are to continue our charitable work – I do hope that you will renew for 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Lynda Chalker of Wallasey'.

Rt Hon Baroness Chalker of Wallasey
President

Society News

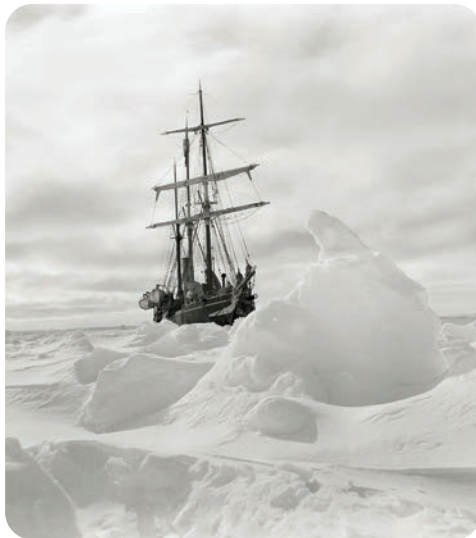
COVID-19 and the Society

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, at the time of writing, the Society's building remains closed to visitors – including Fellows and members – and staff are working remotely. Given the current public health advice encouraging people to work from home we have decided that the building will not re-open in any substantive way until Monday 4 January.

We are keeping a close eye on official advice and if circumstances change significantly, elements of the building may re-open sooner. We will let you know if and when this happens.

Our events programme, including our Monday night lectures, will continue to be streamed via our website for the remainder of the year.


Thank you for your ongoing support of the Society during this difficult time.



© NGS-BG

Limited edition prints

The Society is home to a remarkable collection of original photographic glass and celluloid negatives captured by Frank Hurley, the official photographer of the *Endurance* expedition, 1914-1917.



These delicate negatives made the perilous journey to Elephant Island with Shackleton, Hurley and the rest of the Weddell Sea Party following the destruction of the ship in 1915. A century on, this iconic collection of images has been digitally mastered from the negatives for the first time by leading experts at Salto Ulbeek studio using today's most advanced custom-made technology.

The result is the first ever limited edition series of platinum prints of these images, which are now available to buy in a range of sizes and prices. In addition, the Society will be launching a new portfolio of prints from the expedition, in collaboration with the Scott Polar Research Institute and Salto Ulbeek later this year. For gift ideas and more information on the full limited edition and digital print offer from the Society's full collection of 500,000 images please visit

W www.rgsprintstore.com

E images@rgs.org

Black History Month

To mark Black History Month, the Society celebrated the contributions of Black geographers from the past, present and future. Throughout October we featured Black geographers who have a connection to the Society and who have contributed to a better understanding of our world, including those from across geographical research, teaching, fieldwork, policy, and public engagement.

W www.rgs.org/bhm2020

Medal and award nominations

Our annual medals and awards recognise excellence in geographical research, fieldwork, teaching, and public engagement. Any Fellow or member of the Society can make a nomination, and full details are available on our website. The deadline for all nominations for 2021 is 5.00pm on 8 February.

W www.rgs.org/medalsandawards



Education News

Rex Walford Award

Emily Chandler has been awarded this year's Rex Walford Award for trainee and newly qualified geography teachers. Every year the Rex Walford Award is presented to a teacher who has produced the best scheme of work or set of teaching resources on the same theme as our Young Geographer of the Year competition. This year's theme provided entrants with the opportunity to explore the potential that geography holds through discovering 'the world beyond my window'.

Emily's entry combined a range of geographical connections and themes exploring how COVID-19 is changing geographical perspectives and issues.

To find out the winners of this year's Young Geographer of the Year competition, visit our website.

W www.rgs.org/ygoty

Geography and Core Maths

The Society is delighted to be working with the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP) on our Geography and Core Maths project. AMSP is a government-funded initiative, managed by MEI, providing national support for teachers and students in all state-funded schools and colleges in England, which aims to increase participation in AS/A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, and Core Maths, and to improve the teaching of these qualifications.

A Level geography provides an important opportunity for young people to develop their confidence and competence in using mathematical, quantitative and statistical techniques. The initiative focuses on building support for the circa 80% of young geographers who currently do not study maths beyond the age of 16, and raising awareness of how Core Maths can

support geography students during their A Levels and the transition to undergraduate studies in geography. We have been providing CPD for geography teachers, along with other online resources and support.

W www.rgs.org/geomaths

Fleur Visser © Fleur Visser



Podcasts

Our award winning *Ask the Geographer* podcast features over 60 episodes with a range of experts talking about the latest geographical research, and are extremely

helpful for A Level students who want to keep their case study information up to date. One recent episode features Dr Fleur Visser discussing remote sensing and its applications, including using Landsat, Aster and Sentinel data for Earth Observation in geography. In another, Dr Joe Thorogood, Dr Phil Wadey and Jack Cornish of *The Ramblers* explain how our public rights of way are slowly being forgotten, and how they could be lost all together if they are not officially recorded by 1 January 2026. And Chris Mason, BBC journalist and host of BBC Radio 4 show *Any Questions?*, discusses his journey from geographer to political reporter and why geography is a good subject to study at university.

The whole series of our *Ask the Geographer* podcast is available on Soundcloud and iTunes.

W www.rgs.org/askthegeographer

From the field News




Dudley Stamp Memorial Award recipient, Vaerina Moko, conducting research in the field in Uganda. © Vaerina Moko

Celebrating the work of the Dudley Stamp Memorial Award

To celebrate the work of the Dudley Stamp Memorial Award, Lily Bradshaw, a student undertaking a placement at the Society, has created an interactive story map to give an insight into the breadth of the award and a selection of the wide range of projects it has supported.

Established in 1967, the award supports geographers in the early stages of their careers to travel in support of their research, and to date has enabled over 400 PhD students and post-doctoral researchers from 80 institutions to explore a broad range of topics across 120 countries.

Sir Lawrence Dudley Stamp (1898-1966) was an internationally renowned British geographer who championed the study of geography in universities and schools. In recognition of his services to education



and science, the British National Committee for Geography established the Dudley Stamp Memorial fund from which the award is given. A President of both the RGS and the IBG, Sir Dudley Stamp had a strong belief in the value of international research and co-operation, and this ethos continues through the award today.

Today the Dudley Stamp Memorial Award funds research across the whole spectrum of geography from the intersections between sovereignty, territory, and development in Myanmar to the relationship between fluvial sediment characteristics and floodplain initiation in North America.

W www.rgs.org/dudleystamp


Apply now for our upcoming 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. Recent grant recipients have explored how Cuban women have contributed to the country's plan for climate action, extracted lake sediment cores in Southern Siberia to reconstruct past environmental conditions, and examined the diverse values and attitudes of stakeholders towards balancing forest conservation and developmental needs in Liberia. So if you're a university student intending to carry out fieldwork in 2021, visit our website for more information.

Given the current uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society is continuing to award grants, but funding will only be released when it is clear that it is safe and responsible for researchers to go into the field.

W www.rgs.org/grants



Research and higher education News

Annual International Conference 2021

Planning is now underway for the next annual conference, due to take place from Tuesday 31 August to Friday 3 September 2021. As part of our commitment to increasing the inclusivity and sustainability of the conference, and in light of the ongoing pandemic, this will be a hybrid event with both virtual and in-person ways to participate. Our new virtual platform will ensure that as many people as possible can attend, no matter where they are in the world.

Chaired by Professor Uma Kothari of the University of Manchester, the theme of the conference is *Borders, Borderlands and Bordering*. Information about our call for new sessions and papers, along with details of how existing contributors can roll over their submissions from 2020 is online, along with more information

about key dates, deadlines, and about registration for the conference.

W www.rgs.org/ac2021

Virtual university student visits

Throughout the autumn term we would normally be welcoming undergraduate student visits from a wide range of university geography departments across the country. With the Society closed throughout autumn, we have instead provided university departments with a 'virtual visit' to the Society. This includes a range of talks and workshops enabling students to learn about the history of the Society, our current work and research being carried out on the Collections, as well as gain advice and support on future careers.

W www.rgs.org/research



Professional News

Professional Practice Groups launched

The Society has launched Professional Practice Groups, a new framework of support for professional geographers which aim to support and promote specific areas of professional geographical practice.

Our first Professional Practice Group, Disaster Risk Management, seeks to bring together risk-focused professionals from across disaster risk reduction, reinsurance, humanitarian, governmental and academic sectors, to promote best practice and uncover latent geographical knowledge, skills and practice they have in common.

Through tailored events and sharing best practice, the group aims to develop a community of professional geographers who use geographic information and approaches for disaster risk management in their day jobs or in extra-curricular activities.

They also want to support the development of early career professionals in the risk management sector by recommending best practice and requirements for geographers entering the workplace.

If you are interested in receiving further information about the Disaster Risk Management Professional Practice Group, or are interested in proposing another group, please get in touch.

E professional@rgs.org

W www.rgs.org/PPG

New Chartered Geographers

Congratulations to the 13 Chartered Geographers (CGeog) who have recently been approved by the Society's Council. You can find out more about all our CGeogs in our Register of Chartered Geographers on our website.

W www.rgs.org/CGeogRegister

Events Highlights



Safari in Tanzania © Hu Chen Unsplash

Spring events programme

This spring many of the Society's events will be held online. At the time of writing we do not know if we will be able to hold the Monday night lectures with an audience in the Ondaatje Theatre. All of the lectures will be live streamed and we will let you know if we are able to host a physical audience. Our speakers include Krithi Karanth who will explore the collapse and recovery of wildlife across India over the last two centuries, and Mark Evans who retells

the journey he and his Omani companions undertook to retrace Bertram Thomas's footsteps from Salalah to Doha.

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.

Our public events this term include a topical discussion on how we can reach net zero, our travel event will explore ethical wildlife encounters, and we will examine the ethical implications of Geographic Information Systems. Online events organised by our regional committees include discussions on the economic impacts of COVID-19, securing humanitarian aid, and an Arctic expedition across the Davis Strait.

W www.rgs.org/events



Spring 2021 events

Monday night lectures at a glance

View online www.rgs.org/livestream


6.30pm - 7.45pm

Date	Title	Speaker
11 January	Burning to protect the climate	Professor Jay Mistry
18 January	Working with the world: the British Museum in the 21st century	Dr Hartwig Fischer
25 January	Antarctic atlas: maps and graphics that tell the story of a continent	Dr Peter Fretwell
1 February	20 years, 95 miles, 185 million years: a celebration of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site	Dr Anjana Khatwa
8 February	Into the abode of death: crossing of the Empty Quarter of Arabia	Mark Evans
15 February	Inclusive excellence	Professor Wendy Larner
22 February	Dragon's blood and desert roses: the island of Socotra	Hilary Bradt MBE and Janice Booth
1 March	Journey of the mask	Chris Rainier
8 March	Communities, conservation and sustainable travel in Africa	Sue Watt
15 March	Living with wildlife	Dr Krithi Karanth
22 March	Deep water: the story of a flood	Professor Hannah Cloke
29 March	Colonial collections in decolonial times	Professor Paul Basu

Events Listings

(in chronological order)

Key to events

- B** Book tickets in advance
- M** Members only
-  Continuing professional development for the Chartered Geographer scheme

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 (10.00 am - 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.

We are monitoring the public health advice on large gatherings, events and use of public transport closely, and will resume physical Monday night lectures when it is safe and feasible to do so.

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 **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.

Please note that unexpected changes to events may occur; please check our website for up-to-date information.

M Monday 11 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Burning to protect the climate

Professor Jay Mistry

Not all fires are the same. Jay will talk about how Indigenous burning practices protect biodiversity, culture and the climate. Changing narratives is key to better living with forest fires.

Online. Free, members only.



Tuesday 12 January 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture

Building relationships to ensure humanitarian delivery

Henry Chamberlain

Ensuring aid safely reaches the right place is a vital job, Henry has been ensuring this happens through the use of relationships with armed groups. Organised by the East of England regional committee.

Online. Free.



B Date TBC 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

What will it take for the UK to reach net zero emissions?

Reaching net zero by 2050 may require fundamental changes to nearly every aspect of our lives. Our panel will share workable solutions and how individuals, organisations and government can reach this target with collective action.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

M Monday 18 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Working with the world: the British Museum in the 21st century

Dr Hartwig Fischer

Hartwig discusses how the British Museum collaborates with a network of individuals, institutions and communities across the globe to share their stories both at the Museum and with the world.

Online. Free, members only.

Tuesday 19 January 7.15pm - 8.00pm

Lecture

Fuelling poverty: energy, society and inequality

Dr Caitlin Robinson

Caitlin investigates the causes and consequences of energy poverty and energy justice. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee and York and District GA.

Online. Free.

B Wednesday 20 January 6.00pm - 7.15pm

Lecture

Effect of retreating Kaskawalsh glacier in Yukon

Dr Regan Earley

The retreat of the Kaskawalsh glacier is a prime example of global warming. Regan outlines a study showing the effects of this glacial melt and the resulting problems. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee and Chester Cathedral.

Online. £2, RGS-IBG members free.

Monday 25 January 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Be Inspired afternoon talk

Travellers in the Great Steppe: uncovering a hidden history

Nick Fielding

Whenever anyone mentions Central Asia, the conversation invariably returns to stories about the Great Game and Anglo-Russian rivalries. In his new book on the history of the exploration of the steppes, Nick Fielding shows that there is a hidden and far more diverse history for this vast region and that travellers and adventurers from the West have been visiting since the days of the Mongols.

Online. Free.



M Monday 25 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Antarctic atlas: maps and graphics that tell the story of a continent

Dr Peter Fretwell

A leading cartographer with the British Antarctic Survey will explain the development of his latest map series that unfold new stories of Antarctica, revealing the landscape in ways never seen before.

Online. Free, members only.



B Wednesday 27 January 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Workshop

Dr Fleur Visser

Using Earth Observation data in your teaching

We will show how Earth Observation is an essential tool for helping us better understand geographical processes at a range of scales.

Online. £45, RGS-IBG members £35.



B Wednesday 27 January

7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

Climate emergency: implications of new evidence of increased storms and sea level rise on the south coast of England

Dr Samantha Cope, Dr Matthew Wadey and Dr Ivan Haigh

The speakers present SCOPAC (www.scopac.org.uk) research results that suggest a trend of increased storminess could be underway on England's south coast. Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.

B Date TBC 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

Climate change through the lens

Join our panel as they discuss the role that visual media plays in shaping our future and a closer look at some of the entries from the 2020 Earth Photo competition.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

Monday 1 February 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Be Inspired afternoon talk

Woman with the Iceberg Eyes

Katherine Macinnes

Oriana FWilson CBE was married to Dr Edward Wilson, Captain Scott's best friend. From housewife to CBE and NHM collector, 'Woman with the Iceberg Eyes' traces the fascinating story of an Edwardian lady for whom Oriana Ridge, Antarctica, is named.

Online. Free.

M Monday 1 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

20 years, 95 miles, 185 million years: A celebration of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site

Dr Anjana Khatwa

The Jurassic Coast is one of the world's greatest geological wonders. From vast deserts and deep oceans to dinosaur infested swamps, by showcasing hidden clues, this extraordinary story will be revealed.

Online. Free, members only.



B Wednesday 3 February

5.00pm - 6.30pm

Workshop

Permafrost environments and the implications of Arctic climate change

Dr Richard Waller

Find out more about permafrost and periglacial environments to support your teaching at GCSE and A Level.

Online. £40, RGS-IBG members £30.

Thursday 4 February 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture

Students on ice

Emma Denton

Emma will discuss her expedition journey from Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, across the Davis Strait to Resolute, Nunavut. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee.

Online. Free.



Monday 8 February 4.00pm - 5.15pm

Lecture

Regional innovation systems within a transitional context

Dr Wenying Fu

What does innovation look like under state control?
Dr Wenying Fu explores the state-market nexus using case studies from the electronics industry in China. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee and Tyne and Wear GA.

Online. Free.

M Monday 8 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Into the abode of death: crossing of the empty quarter of Arabia

Mark Evans

On 5 February 1931, British explorer Bertram Thomas became the first person to cross the largest sand desert on earth. Hear how Mark and his Omani companions retraced Thomas's footsteps on their own 49 day journey from Salalah to Doha.

Online. Free, members only.

Thursday 11 February 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture

The Broads: landscape and history

Professor Tom Williamson

The artificially created national park of the Broads has a fascinating history. This lecture delves into its history and archaeology, to explain its unique qualities. Organised by the East of England regional committee.

Online. Free.

M Monday 15 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Inclusive excellence

Professor Wendy Larner

Professor Larner will challenge accounts of the 'neoliberal university' by discussing the growing recognition that research excellence takes multiple forms. She will identify the rise of 'inclusive excellence' and discuss the implications for universities.

Online. Free, members only.

B Wednesday 17 February 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Film screening with Q&A

Minus 73 degrees F

Mikael Strandberg

Travel 3,500 km along the Kolyma River in Siberia. By canoe and on skis they travel through one of the coldest inhabited places on earth. The place where Stalin placed his worst reputed penal colonies. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee and Chester Cathedral.

Online. £2, RGS-IBG members free.



Thursday 18 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture

Simulation and 3D mapping

Christopher Budas

A look at the developments in 3D visualisation of geodata and the interactions between the geospatial and simulation communities that are driving new technological developments in this area. Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.



B Date TBC

Lecture

Tackling 'shale fail': reflections on public perceptions

Professor Patrick Devine-Wright

This talk will present findings from the ASSIST research project. Starting from a geological perspective and sense of place it incorporates issues of spatial proximity and sense of place. Organised by the South West regional committee.

University of Exeter, Streatham Campus,
Exeter, EX4 4QJ. Free.

M Monday 22 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Dragon's blood and desert roses: the island of Socotra

Hilary Bradt MBE and Janice Booth

Socotra, a Yemeni Island off the coasts of Arabia and Africa, is like a fantasy film set with its pink rocks, chubby desert roses and dragon's blood trees like giant mushrooms. Hilary and Janice visited this UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2020 and, overwhelmed by its bizarre beauty, are joint authors of the Bradt guide to Socotra.

Online. Free, members only.



B Tuesday 23 February

7.00pm - 8.00pm

Workshop

TeachChat: embedding careers education into geography

In this session we will be looking at how best to embed careers education into your teaching in a meaningful and useful way, linking it to curriculum topics and encouraging your students to think about taking geography to the next level and beyond.

Online. Free.

B Tuesday 23 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

Wildlife tourism

Join our panel as we discuss the ethics of wildlife encounters. We often want to get close to animals and learn more about them. We will ask experts how we can do this responsibly, what to look out for and what research we should do before we go.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.



B Date TBC 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

What happens when we say yes?

Do you know what happens when you consent on your phone or web browser to share your locational data? We ask our panel of experts this question as they explain the uses and implications of sharing geographical information as well as what could happen if our GPS and sat navs went down.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

Monday 1 March 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Be Inspired afternoon talk

Genealogy, geography and archives

Chandan Mahal

This lecture discusses how people of Punjabi descent worked with the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Collections to explore the places associated with their ancestral heritage. Using maps and photographs alongside their own family archives, they traced a broader context to the political and historical events that have shaped their personal and community histories. [Online. Free.](#)

M Monday 1 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Journey of the mask

Chris Rainier

Chris has spent 30 years exploring masks of the world. Chris will explain the meaning behind mask rituals and why humans have worn masks since the dawn of civilisation.

[Online. Free, members only.](#)



B Tuesday 2 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Short talks

Primary geography and history teachmeet

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 10 individual sessions from a variety of primary teachers, and take away a range of ideas, resources and experiences.

[Online. Free.](#)



Tuesday 2 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

Economic and social impacts of COVID-19

Professor Damian Maye, Professor Graham Moon and Dr Dianna Smith

A panel featuring contributors to the *Geography Directions* blog discussing the latest geographical research on the economic and social impacts of COVID-19. Organised by the South regional committee. [Online. Free.](#)



B Wednesday 3 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

Our hazardous Earth

Our panel will take you around the globe to witness some of the most extreme natural hazards. From tectonic hazards to climatic hazards, we'll cover earthquakes, storms, droughts amongst others and highlight the work of geographers responding to these hazards.

[Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.](#)

Thursday 4 March

Lecture

Desert exploration for the busy professional

Dr Alan Crofts

Alan, an accomplished organiser of independent exploratory expeditions in desert regions, will present an entertaining summary of conducting global expeditions to desert lands. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee.

[Online. Free.](#)

M Monday 8 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Communities, conservation and sustainable travel in Africa

Sue Watt

An award winning travel writer specialising in Africa, Sue takes us on a journey across the continent's sub Saharan regions to show how vital sustainable tourism can be for the people and wildlife of these countries.

Online. Free, members only.



B Tuesday 9 March 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Workshop

Dr Des McDougall

A virtual field trip to the Moiry Valley

The spectacular Moiry Valley in SW Switzerland is a fantastic location for students to learn about glaciers and glaciation. It features some impressively-clear landforms, including striking evidence for glacier recession following the end of the Little Ice Age.

Online. £10

Tuesday 9 March 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture

Landscape of towers

Clive Dunn

There are over 250 lost or ruined churches and religious remains in Norfolk. Illustrating these with his sublime photographs, Clive will give us a tour of these wonderful structures. Organised by the East of England regional committee.

Online. Free.

Wednesday 10 March

Lecture

St Ives: the artists, the fisherfolk and the fishing industry

David Tovey

This talk covers the transition of St Ives, a failing industrial town, into a prime tourist destination facilitated by the arrival of the artists, the railway and the fishermen. Organised by the South West regional committee and the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus Geography Group.

Online. Free.

B Thursday 11 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Short talks

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.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

Thursday 11 March 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture

Shannon Country: a river journey through time

Paul Clements

Paul Clements delves into the Shannon heartland on a footstepping quest to recreate the trip of Richard Hayward 80 years earlier. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee.

Online. Free.

M Monday 15 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Living with wildlife

Dr Kriithi Karanth

Kriithi will explore the collapse and recovery of wildlife across India over the last two centuries, and share her insights into the development of conservation interventions in addressing human-wildlife conflicts.

Online. Free, members only.

Tuesday 16 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture

Andy Lester

Urban Hope – wildling our towns and cities

Over three quarters of the UK population live in towns and cities and they are increasingly seen as vital areas for the future of nature. Is it possible to make our urban areas vital havens for nature? Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.



B Friday 19 March 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Workshop

Geography and history – together stronger, but separate...?

Ben Ballin and Alf Wilkinson

This course will support you in planning primary history and geography to strengthen links between the subjects. Run in conjunction with the Historical Association.

Online. £80, RGS-IBG members £70.

Monday 22 March 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Be Inspired afternoon talk

Always ready for an expedition

Dr Natalie Cox

From expeditions in Africa, to the debating halls of the Royal Geographical Society, to a study in Trieste, this talk recounts the extraordinary life of explorer Richard Burton whilst embracing the wider history of 19th century science.

Online. Free.



M Monday 22 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Deep water: the story of a flood

Professor Hannah Cloke

Explore beneath the muddy waters of Mozambique to discover the forces that cause floods, and see how global flood forecasting is helping people cheat fate and choose their own destiny.

Online. Free, members only.

B Thursday 25 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Film screening

Early expeditionary film

Through our film collection, housed at the British Film Institute and online, you can ascend the Himalayan peaks, sail through mighty oceans and traverse thickets of African jungle. We will take you on a journey across space and time to show you some of the hidden gems in the collection from the comfort of your own home.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

M Monday 29 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Monday night lecture

Colonial collections in decolonial times

Professor Paul Basu

Archives and collections assembled as part of colonial projects are troubling presences in our cultural and scientific institutions. Can they also play a role in repairing past injustices and building more positive relationships in the present?

Online. Free, members only.

Wednesday 31 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture

Scrambles amongst the Alps: mountaineering in the 18th and 19th centuries

Andrew Thompson

Why did people in the 18th and 19th centuries become fascinated by high mountains which had previously been regarded as desolate wastelands? What drove them, and especially the English, to risk their lives on perilous first ascents of unclimbed summits?

Organised by the South West regional committee.

Devonport Lecture Theatre, University of Plymouth, Portland Square, Plymouth, PL4 8AA Free.

Regional event organisers

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 the following volunteers.

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Our regional committees are an excellent way to get involved with and support the Society. The regions form an integral part of what the Society does and creates a network of support and knowledge, and an opportunity to meet fascinating people.

Whether you have a passion for geography and want to share ideas and knowledge, meet like-minded people, or simply satisfy your own curiosity your regional committee has it covered.

Our regional committees are at the heart of the Society's growing community. They organise public events – including talks covering the breadth of geography, networking meetings, and fieldtrips, build local connections by promoting geography, and provide a real benefit to Fellows and members.

The regional committees meet regularly throughout the year and their events are held at a variety of locations including universities, partner venues and now online.

Each committee has a wide ranging skill set. They are often praised for their flexibility, with roles that reflect an individual's personal

reasons for getting involved. All committees have a Chair, while other roles cover finance, social media, marketing, event planning and more. Everyone on the committee plays an active role, it's not just something to make your CV look better.

We are excited to have new people and their ideas, so, whether you want to chart pioneering field trips, promote discussions on academic topics, or share experiences and local knowledge, there's a committee position for you.

If this sounds like something you are interested in please contact your Regional Chair and hopefully meet in person at an event when it becomes possible. We look forward to seeing you!

W www.rgs.org/regions

Catch up with our lectures online

All of our lectures and events are currently being live-streamed, but if you're not able to make one of our online events at its scheduled time, you can easily catch up, or watch your favourites again, via our website.



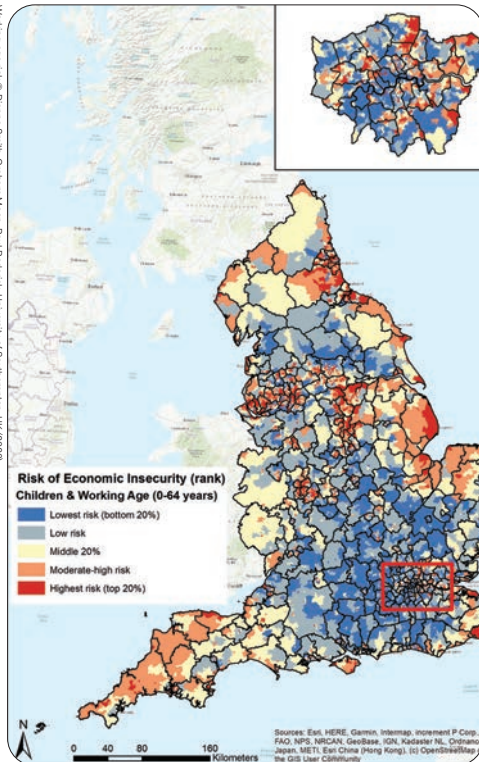
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Fellows and members are able to catch up on our previous Monday night lectures and our other event content. Recent talks have included: Tim Jarvis explaining how South Georgia's glacial melt over the past 100 years has confirmed the importance of Shackletonian leadership in tackling climate change; best-selling author, Alice Morrison, on her latest expedition across the Sahara to see first hand what is happening as a result of desertification to the landscape and the people of this area; and Dr Bharat Pankhania giving a fascinating and chilling insight into the COVID-19 pandemic and its future impact on society.

We also have plenty of publicly available content too, including our microlecture series, some of our Collections-based talks, and of course our *Geography now* podcast – so whatever you're looking for, there's bound to be something to pique your interest.

So what are you waiting for?

W www.rgs.org/lecturesonline

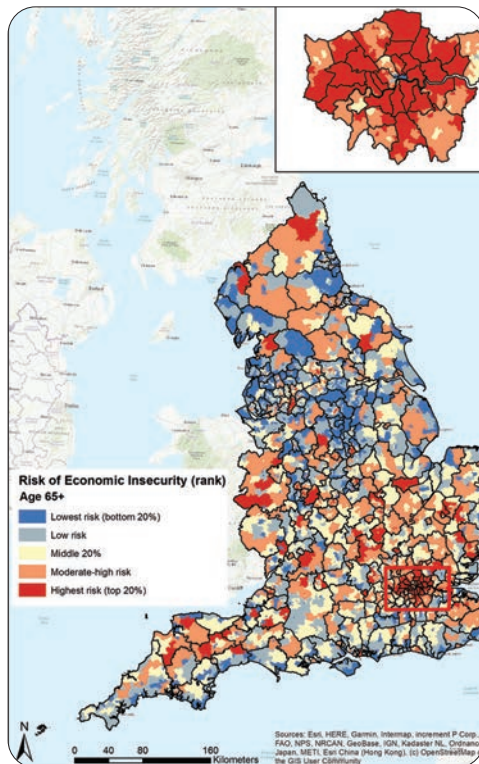



As COVID-19 continues to spread across the world, it's clear that the pandemic is fundamentally geographical in nature, with the global crisis affecting places differently.

Recognising the significant contributions geographers make towards understanding the varied nature of the pandemic's causes, transmission and effects, in April the Society launched a new series of posts on its research blog, *Geography Directions*, to showcase how geographers' expertise was being applied to COVID-19. Since then, over 80 posts have been written by academic and professional geographers engaging directly with the pandemic and the issues it raises.

A huge range of topics are addressed in these posts. Many have covered the differential effects of the pandemic based on social factors such as race, class, gender,

sexuality and age; as well as regional differences in the UK and on a global scale. Geographers have also looked at more specific topics. For example, Dr Alpa Shah (the London School of Economics and Political Science) and Dr Jens Lerche (SOAS) explored the issues faced by Indian migrant workers during lockdown; Dr Kirsty Finn (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Dr Mark Holton (University of Plymouth) examined student experiences as universities returned amid government-imposed restrictions; and Dr Daniel Evans and Professor Jessica Davies (both University of Lancaster) discussed why urban farming should flourish post-pandemic. Amy Humphrey (Dundee University) and Professor Hester Parr (University of Glasgow) applied their work on missing people to the pandemic scenario, and Dr Louise Reid and Rachel Creaney (both University of St Andrews)





considered how lockdown has changed people's relationship with home. Some posts have also featured new geographical frameworks and data, a notable example being Dr Diana Smith, Professor Graham Moon and Professor Paul Roderick (all University of Southampton) who developed economic indices to measure the impact of COVID-19 on different age cohorts (see images on pages 23 and 24).

This range showcases the breadth and vibrancy of geography not only in relation to COVID-19, but as a discipline capable of bringing understanding to the complex and varied world we all live in.

Of course, COVID-19 is not the only complex challenge affecting the world. Posts on *Geography Directions* also address a wide range of other issues, notably environmental concerns and the idea of a 'green recovery'.

Geography Directions offers unique and accessible insights into both the importance of geography as a discipline and the research that geographers are undertaking. No matter what your background, as a Fellow or member, a teacher or a student, there is something on it for you. If you are interested in writing something new or having a post reblogged from another platform, please do get in touch.

E journals@rgs.org

W www.geographydirections.com



The geography of geography

Research and findings

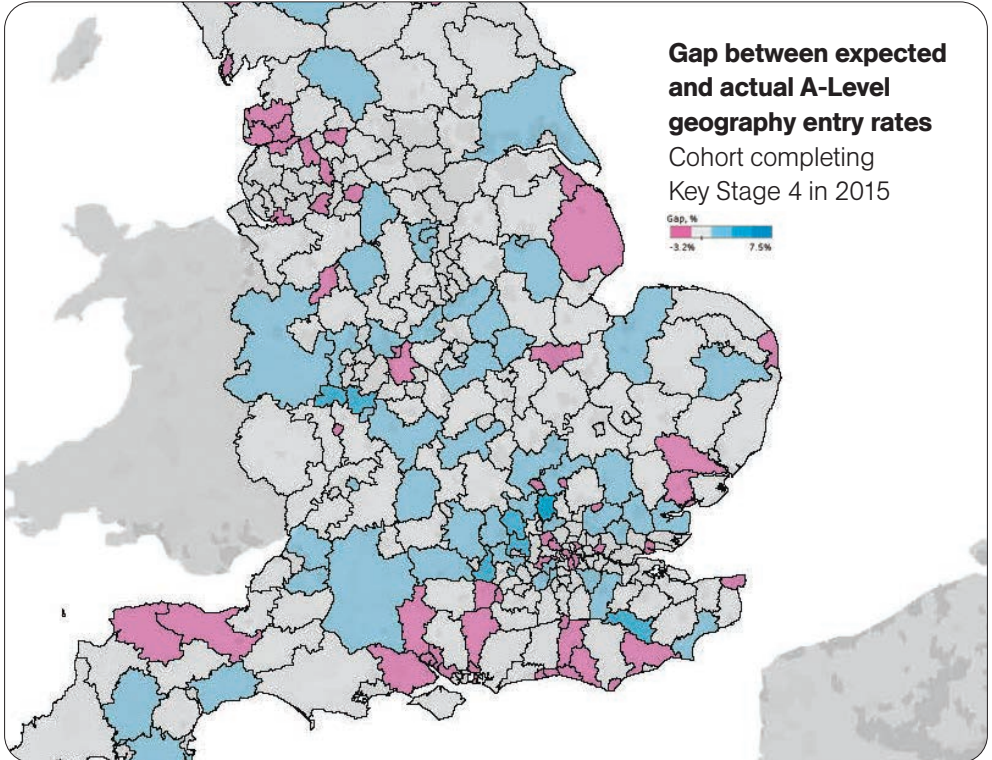
The Society, along with the wider geographical community, has known for a long time that geography attracts a disproportionately low number of young people from disadvantaged and Black and ethnic minority backgrounds to study the subject.

We knew national participation trends but had little benchmark data at regional and school levels. And it is only by knowing more about who is choosing geography at school and university (and, importantly, who doesn't), and how the rates of uptake and progression vary that we will be able to develop effective interventions to address the inequalities and ensure that geography is a vibrant discipline.

The Society therefore commissioned a significant piece of independent research using the Department for Education's National Pupil Database and linked HESA


data (information on students at university) to answer our questions. Given the source of the schools data, the results are for England only for the period from 2009/10 to 2017/18. We hope similar analyses will be undertaken in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

At a national level, GCSE geography entries increased strongly during this time, from 69,000 in 2010 to 239,000 in 2018. This increase was no doubt aided by the inclusion of geography in the English Baccalaureate, which is used as a success measure for schools. The analyses reveal that proportionally the increase in those choosing to study the discipline at GCSE came predominantly from groups who had traditionally been less likely to study it – particularly disadvantaged students (in this case those who qualify for free school meals), Black students, and those with lower prior attainment.





Orientation Day © RGS AG



However, the data show that this trend did not continue for those going on to study geography at A Level and beyond to university. Although the absolute number of students studying A Level geography increased between 2010-2018, fewer disadvantaged pupils and Black and minority ethnic students entered A Level geography than would have been expected based on prior attainment, gender and the type of school attended.

This was also true for entries to undergraduate geography programmes. While the number of Black students more than tripled, and the number of Asian students more than doubled between 2005 and 2018, Black and Asian students have consistently lower rates of progression compared to white students. Students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are also among the least likely to progress. Alongside this, Black students are much

less likely to complete their degree than students from other ethnic backgrounds. In 2018 only 66% of Black students completed their geography degree compared to 86% for all students.

The research also compared progression and participation between different areas of England, taking into account different types of schools and gender, allowing us to develop evidence-based interventions to address the inequalities and share good practice. We will continue to provide updates over the coming months on these interventions, for example through our Geography Ambassadors programme.

W www.rgs.org/geographyofgeography




Supporting student fieldwork Project Madagascar

The Geographical Fieldwork Grants is the Society's longest running grants scheme and offers up to £3,000 to UK based teams of undergraduate or postgraduate students who are conducting fieldwork which will make a significant contribution to existing geographical knowledge.

Last year a team of students from the University of Exeter spent six weeks in the Iaroka Forest, Eastern Madagascar to conduct the first preliminary biodiversity surveys of the area. Collaborating with local researchers from the University of Antananarivo and the Development and Biodiversity Conservation Action for Madagascar (DBCAM), the team gained a deeper understanding of the endemic species and ecosystem services of the Iaroka Forest and Maromizaha protected area.

Situated in one of the largest areas of remaining rainforest in the country, known as the Ankeniheny Zahamena Corridor, Iaroka remains an unsurveyed area of mid-altitude humid forest. Although the corridor is now protected, areas such as Iaroka, which are under local management, remain without strict protection leaving them vulnerable to continued slash-and-burn and illegal logging that threatens the rainforest ecosystem. The team used a variety of methods including daytime and nocturnal surveys, Sherman and pitfall traps, opportunistic sightings and camera trap footage to collect data on a range of species. In total the team recorded 141 species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, lemurs and small mammals, a third of which had not previously been recorded in the area. Of those recorded, 110 were endemic to the country and three, the indri, the diademed sifaka and the black





and white ruffed lemur, are classified as critically endangered by the IUCN Red List.

Team Leader of the expedition, Natalie Lewis, said: "On one of the last days at our camp an indri family came right above us in the trees. One indri mother was carrying a pup who climbed out of her arms and onto the branch to munch on some leaves. This was the last sighting we had of the indri and it was the most memorable way to say goodbye to one of the most beautiful species we witnessed during our time in the rainforest."

In addition to the survey work, the Project Madagascar team also conducted community outreach in a local school and participated in a local village meeting to discuss conservation and management efforts between village elders and leaders. Alongside this a species guide containing the species identified and a short film about

laroka / Maromizaha forest and its people have been made. These will be distributed by the expedition collaborators and DBCAM to locals and other conservation groups.

Poppy Philipps, a member of the group, said: "I have gained some invaluable experience from the expedition. The knowledge I gained from the local guides and scientists and also from other members of our initial group, such as when to use different survey types and as well as becoming more adept at data handling, has enabled me to feel more confident in my future studies."

We have a range of grants available to support students and researchers at all career stages with their fieldwork. To find out more visit our website.

W www.rgs.org/grants



Give the gift of membership

The perfect present

For a gift that inspires and supports in equal measure, look no further than gift membership of the Society.

It's a great way to get involved with the Society, by nurturing an enthusiasm for geography and providing valuable ways to meet like-minded people.

Gift membership unlocks a range of exciting activities – from live streaming our varied events programme and exploring *Geographical* magazine each month, to receiving discounts on books and equipment.

Members can also access our extensive library of geographical talks and discussions, with over 200 event recordings available online.

You can give one year of Ordinary Membership or Young Geographer membership as a gift. Ordinary Members

will enjoy our rich and varied Monday night lecture programme, while Young Geographers can also take full advantage of our educational resources.

For more information on which Gift membership is right for you, visit

W www.rgs.org/gift

Contact us

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society's building is currently closed to visitors.

Please check our website for details of our re-opening date and for departmental contact information.



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