

Cultural Spaces of Climate: Early Career Researchers Network
Planning Meeting: 8th June 2011
University of Nottingham

Attendees

Dr. Georgina Endfield (University of Nottingham)
Dr. Lucy Veale (University of Nottingham)
Dr. Carol Morris (University of Nottingham)
Dr. Rusi Jaspal (University of Nottingham)
George Adamson (University of Brighton)
Alex Berland (University of Nottingham)
James Fenner (University of Nottingham)
Alexander Hall (University of Manchester)
David Hirst (University of Manchester)
Mathis Hampel (University of East Anglia)
Cerys Jones (University of Aberystwyth)
Lucy Rose (University of Exeter)
Lizzie Rushton (University of Nottingham)

Summary of the meeting

Session one

Introduction: Dr Georgina Endfield, University of Nottingham

Georgina introduced the original Cultural Spaces of Climate network, and described its aims, objective and outputs, along with collaborators and funding bodies. This network has brought together the current group of early career researchers, and has revealed the breadth and depth of climate related research ongoing in the Early Career Researcher (ECR) community.

Round table introduction from each attendee – a few of the themes and ideas that arose from this discussion included the following, though not listed in any particular order:

1. Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work
2. Methodologies – in particular archival utilities and weaknesses, using the same source for multiple outputs.
3. Environmental reconstruction.
4. Climate narratives and perceptions of climate.
5. Coastlines and climate change, using boat design as an indicator of change.

6. Analysis of media interactions with climate; perceptions of risk; alarmist discourses and their uses.
7. Public value and policy implications of research.
8. Local scale, individual extreme weather events; cultural memory of disasters – how an extreme event shapes what people expect of their climate.
9. Performative and participatory aspects of climate research.
10. Climate vs. Weather; the authority of climate science vs. weather lore; weather knowledge at different temporal scales.

Other initial questions that arose from subsequent discussion, and some initial responses were:

Who can we approach for funding?

- Royal Geographical Society (RGS-IGB) – via support through hosting events, or through a funding application to the Climate Change Research Group.
- AHRC – Dr Lucy Veale will be attending a meeting next week to discuss follow-up funding for projects and she will report back on any opportunities there.
- Individual members of the network should investigate opportunities for funding from their own institutions e.g. small grants to attend workshops etc.

What do we want to want from this network?

- Space and forum to explore the challenges of working in the complex field of climate research, in a supportive and collaborative way.
- Opportunity to engage with established researchers to enable development of positive relationships between those with extensive experience in the field and ECRs.
- Collaborative projects between members of the network, possible conference sessions and academic articles as an aspect of outputs.

Session Two

During this session a working title for the network, practical and intellectual aims, and themes were discussed and identified, building on the discussions from session one.

Cultural Spaces of Climate: Early Career Research Network

Practical Aims

- 1) Supportive network for sharing, exploring, disseminating, constructive feedback for early career researchers.
- 2) To encourage, develop and maintain international dialogue and collaboration.
- 3) Fostering conversations between established and early career researchers, and those beyond the academy.

Intellectual Aims

- 1) Fostering interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary conversations.
- 2) Grappling with the intellectual plurality of researching cultural dimensions of climate.
- 3) Exploring the epistemological narratives of climate.
- 4) Collectively reflecting upon the public value and policy implications of our research.

Key words

Geography; history; anthropology; psychology; museology; palaeo-climatology; climatic vulnerability and resilience; culturality; methodology; interdisciplinarity; social/cultural memory; creativity; performativity.

Broad Themes

- 1) Challenging established framings of climate and climate change.
- 2) Methodological and Interdisciplinary approaches for climate research.
- 3) Contextualising climate at the local, regional and global scale.

Session Three

Plans for the initial event, outputs and impacts and future dialogue was discussed, and some initial ideas are presented below.

Initial/Launch event

Timing: initial suggestion of October was felt to be a little early if funding applications were to be undertaken – agreement on early December as an appropriate time.

Locations discussed included: Kew Observatory, London; Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales; Field Centre on Dartmoor; Durham Observatory; The Science Museum, London.

Format of event: Theme to be the first of three intellectual aims (with the possibility of two further events taking the other two aims).

Ideally the event would be held over an evening and following day with the following possible format:

Day one: evening public event e.g. open public debate with panellists and chair provided by the network for a discussion on the theme.

Day two:

- **Seminar session** with discussion facilitated by an invited established academic. Each member of the network would speak to 2 or 3 images from their research that relate to the theme as a way of promoting inclusive and relaxed dialogue, and the opportunity to gain the perspective of the facilitator. These images could be collated prior to the event in an anthology for each member of the network.
- **Field trip/site visit/walking tour element** that uses the location of the workshop, e.g. a speaker from the institution where the event is held could speak to the group, or provide a guided tour of the facility. This aspect of the day would provide an opportunity for informal conversations and promote collaboration.
- **Discussion/Reflection space:** opportunity at the end of the workshop for reflection and discussion of the event, with time to determine some 'next steps' etc.

Possible outputs

- Three workshop sessions which are built on our three intellectual aims.
- Opportunities for collaborative research projects and continued development of network members.
- Collaborative paper/edition: e.g. AREA and WIRES both encourage submissions from ECRs, also other journals are possibility from a variety of disciplines.
- Conference sessions: possibility of sessions at AAG (New York, February 2012), RGS-IBG (Edinburgh, July 2012) built on research from network members, or

arising out of a future workshop? Perhaps a call for papers on the second theme may be a good way of promoting the work of the network.

- Feeding into existing educational structures to promote our research, e.g. supporting undergraduate dissertations and projects that speak to the broad 'Cultural Spaces of Climate' theme.
- Facilitating continuing dialogue: website, email group, possible workspace?

Next Steps

- 1) Continue the discussion with the email group already set up, and extend the network to other interested ECRs. Each attendee will publicise the network in their institution and to other collaborative partners – inviting them to join the email group in the first instance. The network will also be publicised at the final CSC workshop on 25th June. George Adamson has also recently become a member of the www.climatehistorynetwork.com – a broadly North American based research network, and will publicise our network to them.
- 2) An e-newsletter will be launched over the next month or so, with the first edition coming from Nottingham. It is then hoped that this e-newsletter will be taken on by another group within the network, so that it 'travels' and each member has the opportunity to explore work related to their research, publicise events, etc. Lucy Veale and Lizzie Rushton will meet later this month to explore website and newsletter ideas and report back to the group.
- 3) Explore funding options for next event: Lucy Veale will report back via the email group as to any opportunities that may be available after the meeting next week. Lizzie Rushton will explore opportunities through the CCRG, RGS-IGB. Any other ideas/research regarding funding would be welcomed.
- 4) Explore venue options for the next event, with a brief outline of cost – James Lyon Fenner agreed to speak to the Science Museum, Mathis Hampel will explore opportunities at the Durham Observatory. Any other contributions to this research would be welcomed. Please do report back to the group via email.