

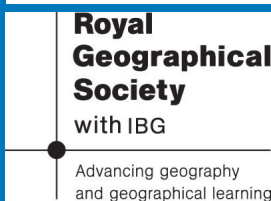


Landscape and Environment Impact Fellowship Newsletter

Issue 1—August 2011

The Director's Impact Fellowship

The AHRC awarded the Landscape and Environment Programme a Director's Impact Fellowship following the Programme's end in 2010. The Impact Fellowship's key aim is to develop the public impact of the Programme by building on the projects that offer high public value, organising follow-up events and generating a new series of diverse outputs including a new website, performance work and book. Six official partners from the UK cultural and conservation sectors listed below (many of which were stakeholders in the original Programme), are involved, helping all to realise the aims and objectives of a six year initiative. The Fellowship runs until the end of December 2011.



June workshops

Throughout June the Fellowship team held a series of four workshops based on themes generated by the Landscape and Environment Programme. The workshops were designed to bring together people who have been involved in Programme projects to review the achievements and public value of the Programme, and to discuss emergent themes and issues with other interested academic parties, creative practitioners, landscape managers, and representatives from Impact Fellowship partner organisations. Thank you to all who took part.

Writing Worlds

The first workshop 'Writing Worlds' was held on 3rd June at the University of Nottingham. The aim of the workshop was to address both literary criticism and creative writing, modes of publication, and the reception and effect of writing on landscape and environment issues as well as its production. A range of places and spaces under 'landscape and environment' - urban, rural, local, industrial, regional, marginal, transportational, maritime, terrestrial, contemporary, and historical - were considered - alongside a repertoire of literary forms and genres, both factual and fictional. The event was attended by researchers from Landscape and Environment projects that have explored the writing of landscape plus colleagues from the University of Nottingham. The environmental writer and historian, Richard Hamblyn also participated and spoke about his recent piece on the Lisbon earthquake featured in his book ***Terra: Tales of the Earth - Four Events that Changed the World***.

Performing Geographies

The second workshop on 'Performing Geographies' was led by Mike Pearson (University of Aberystwyth) on 5th and 6th June and took place at various sites in North Lincolnshire. The location was selected to allow participants to explore the setting for Mike's new performance *Warplands*, commissioned by the Impact Fellowship (see page 4). The workshop invited discussion relating to what difference a performative



Workshop participants exploring Alkborough Flats

dimension can make to researching landscape and environment, extending public value and informing and shaping narratives. Field visits were focussed on two specific locations. The first, Ousefleet, has been named the 'emptiest place in Britain' as the related Ordnance Survey grid square (on 1:50000 and 1:25000 maps) has the least detail of anywhere in Britain. Alkborough, the second, is home to a medieval maze known as Julian's Bower that is situated above Alkborough Flats - one of the largest flood storage schemes in Europe. The workshop was attended by Programme members and representatives from English Heritage and the Environment Agency. The event was filmed in its entirety and footage will be available from the Programme website as part of the development of a toolkit for running similar workshops.

Narrating Environmental Change

Held on 14th June at the Royal Geographical Society in London, the third workshop brought together members of the Researching Environmental Change Networks, collaborative external partners, and representatives from LWEC, the National Ecosystem Assessment and AHRC to discuss network outcomes, share learning experiences and generate ideas for future work. This event focussed on the role of narrative and storytelling in both historical and contemporary accounts of environmental change and highlighted the need for the arts, humanities and sciences to work together on these issues.



Images of environmental change

Bringing Landscapes to Life

The final workshop was held at the National Trust London office on 28th June. 'Bringing Landscapes to Life' aimed to explore the enhancement of public value in landscape research by bringing together researchers from Programme projects with heritage contexts with heritage managers including representatives from Fellowship partners National Trust and English Heritage. The day encompassed a great breadth of discussion and effectively illustrated the public value of the research completed within the Landscape and Environment programme and beyond.

LWEC Accreditation

The Landscape and Environment Programme and Impact Fellowship have been awarded accreditation by Living with Environmental Change (LWEC), a partnership of UK government departments and agencies, devolved administrations, local government and research councils. LWEC's main aim is to ensure that decision makers in government, business and society have the knowledge, foresight and tools to mitigate, adapt to and benefit from environmental change.

<http://www.lwec.org.uk/>



Advisory Board

The Director's Impact Fellowship has an advisory board made up of members from the official partners and other Landscape and Environment Programme stakeholders. The board is in place to advise the Programme Directorate and AHRC Officers on the development and management of the Director's Impact Fellowship.

The first meeting was held on 29th March 2011 and the second is due to take place in October this year.

Researching Environmental Change Networks

The original call for the Researching Environmental Change (REC) networks in 2009 followed growing recognition that arts and humanities research on environmental change was still largely absent from dominant narratives and policy documents addressing climate change and our changing environment more broadly. 13 networks were funded under the scheme, each holding a series of workshop events between June 2010 and July 2011 with the aim of ensuring that the "dimensions and dynamics of human livelihood are fully embedded in future discussions and considerations of the consequences of environmental change."

Disciplines represented within the networks include: archaeology, climate science and meteorology, drama and performance, English studies and creative writing, environmental science, fine art, history and environmental history, geography and media studies.

The majority of networks have worked with non-academic institutions and individuals to enhance the research, dissemination and public value of the networks. Partners have included English Heritage, National Trust, Royal Meteorological Society, Royal Geographical Society, AONB management teams, Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, British Library, and Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

Completed and planned outputs include academic papers and edited collections, web-based resources, documentary film, conference sessions, public events, student networks, public exhibitions, charity collaborations, and an artist book.

The Impact Fellowship Directorate have been visiting as many of the REC network workshops as possible.

Network Themes

- Histories of environmental change and the ways they are told
- Representations of environmental change
- Knowledge and values

Anticipatory Histories

Working alongside the National Trust, this group has explored practical problems facing landscape managers and is currently producing a glossary of key words from their events in collaboration with the artist Colin Sackett.

Cultural Spaces of Climate

This network has attempted to re-culture, historicise and popularise climate, working with the RMetSoc, RGS and amateur climatologists.

The Cultural Framing of Environmental Discourse

Members of this network have explored the different cultural frames applied to environmental issues in various types of media.

Living Flood Histories

The experience of being flooded has dominated the discussions of this group that has successfully incorporated the work of writers, artists and musicians into their workshops.

Spectacular Environmentalisms

Network members have documented the rise and role of 'celebrity' in environmental and development issues.

Early Modern Discourses of Environmental Change and Sustainability

Medieval literature and archival sources relating to historical environmental change have been the inspiration for this network which has now broadened to encompass ideas of 'Environment and Identity' from all periods.

Environmental Change in Prehistory

The dramatic changes in global climate occurring 6 million years BP have occupied this group of archaeologists and climate modellers.

Local Places, Global Processes

This group held events at Wicken Fen, the Quantock Hills and Kielder Water, collaborating with environmental managers to explore ideas of beauty alongside practical landscape management issues.

Values of Environmental Writing

Debate about the possible relations between reading habits and preferences, levels of environmental literacy, and wider patterns of pro-

environment behavioural and lifestyle change have dominated these discussions.

Reflecting on Environmental Change Through Site-Based Performance

The aim of this research network has been to examine the potential of site-based performance as a means of investigating and representing the dynamics of environmental change.

Data Landscapes

Leading digital artists, scientists, academics and public and private institutions have been brought together in this group to explore the creative potential of Climate Models.

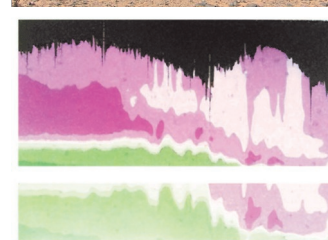
e-Research Approaches to Historic Weather Data

This collaboration with the Met Office and British Library has uncovered key historical source materials for weather reporting and the possibilities of them being made available electronically.

Climate Histories

This anthropology based network has attempted to explain how people perceive, interpret and communicate environmental knowledge.

We look forward to reporting on more of the REC network outputs in the next newsletter.



P17 (135°W)
Nolan (2004)

Programme PhDs

One of the objectives of the Programme and Impact Fellowship is to nurture early career researchers. The Programme had two pathways to funded postgraduate study—five collaborative studentship awards, and postgraduate studentships attached to larger research grants. We are proud of the achievements of the postgraduate students and are thrilled to announce that the following people have now been successfully awarded their PhDs.

Martyn Allen—*Animalcapes and Empire* (Collaborative studentship)

Carolyn Anderson—*Constructing the military landscape* (Collaborative studentship)

Polly Atkin—*A place re-imagined*—*Dove Cottage, Grasmere* (Collaborative studentship)

Caroline Juby—*London before London* (Collaborative studentship)

Marianna Dudley—*Militarized Landscapes* (Large project)

Matthew Flintham—*The Future of Landscape and the Moving Image* (Large project)

Margerita Pieraccini—*Contested Common Land* (Large project)

Robinson in Ruins

The Landscape and Environment Programme was excited to be part of the launch of the new 'Robinson' film by renowned director Patrick Keiller. Patrick's third film in the Robinson series entitled *Robinson in Ruins* documents the journey of a wandering, erratic scholar, through landscapes in the south of England, mostly in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. The world premier of the film was held at the 67th Venice Film festival in September 2010. The official UK release by the British Film Institute (BFI) followed on 19th November 2010.

The film was conceived as a successor to *Robinson in Space* (1997), and a book of the same name (1999), which managed to dispel an initial, fairly widespread perception of the UK's material economy, and the supposed decline of its manufacturing sector, in favour of a more accurate understanding.

The film is a more or less circular journey through the country's landscapes, mostly in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Among the locations are places that demonstrate both the past and continuing presence of the United States military, the hiving off of strategic public-sector assets to private-sector, often US/UK-owned, consortia, and sites of agrarian rebellion at various times since the sixteenth century—typically responses to land enclosure exacerbated by the failure of successive harvests, all of which combine to suggest that the project's initial question about belonging to a landscape might be set aside in favour of one that asks



instead to whom the landscape, and by extension, the state, effectively belongs. Whilst the camera visits the scenes of historical events, Vanessa Redgrave's accompanying narration includes references to off-screen events such as the war in Afghanistan, the deepening economic crisis and the government's rediscovery of the manufacturing industry, as well as

their relationship with landscape and images of landscape, in a context of economic and environmental change.' The project team was completed by two co-investigators, Doreen Massey and Patrick Wright and a PhD student, Matthew Flintham, who was successfully awarded his doctorate earlier this year. Other outcomes are the essay by Doreen Massey

Landscape/Space/Politics that accompanies the DVD of *Robinson in Ruins* which was released in June.

The project team have recently been involved in a nationwide tour of universities where they have talked about the

'Before Keiller's (or Robinson's) prophetic gaze, the English countryside is a monument to itself, and ripe for revolutionary appropriation'

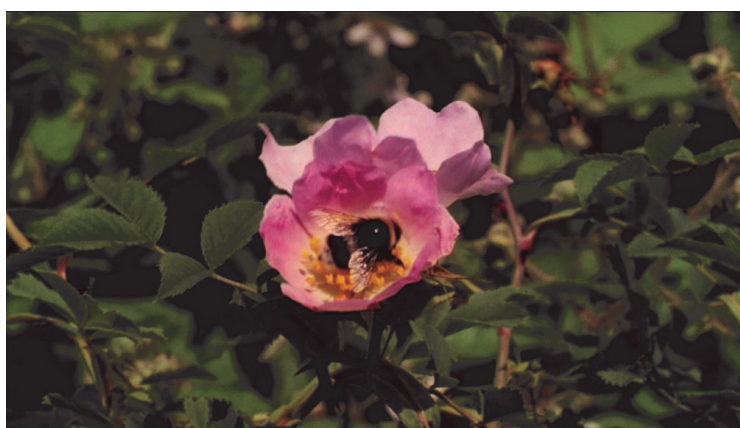
(Brian Dillon, *The Guardian*, 20th November 2010)

general subjects including food and energy security, climate change and mass-extinction. Despite all these, the film manages to reach an optimistic conclusion.

The film is one outcome of the research project 'The Future of Landscape and the Moving Image'. Taking its engagement with the UK landscape as a political intervention, the project 'set out to explore received ideas about mobility, belonging and displacement, and

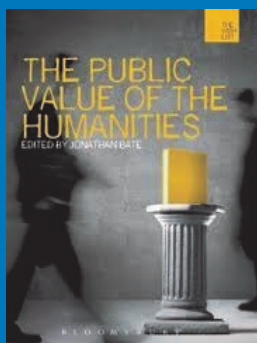
film and the research project to academic and public audiences. Nottingham was one of the stops on the tour in June when the Impact Fellowship Directorate organised a screening of the film and accompanying Q & A with Patrick Keiller at the independent 'Broadway' cinema in the city. A workshop was held the following day in the School of Geography. A report of the event will be published on the Landscape and Environment Programme website.

It has just been announced that Patrick Keiller has been chosen to fill the central space of Tate Britain during the Olympic year (2012). Tate Britain director, Penelope Curtis, said: "Patrick Keiller's sustained interest in understanding the British landscape and how it is represented strikes a perfect chord with the Tate Collection." The installation will be unveiled on 27th March.



Images are stills from 'Robinson in Ruins' by Patrick Keiller

The Public Value of the Humanities



Programme Director Stephen Daniels has contributed a chapter to the new volume *The Public Value of the Humanities* edited by Jonathan Bate and published by Bloomsbury. The chapter 'Living Landscapes' was co-written with Ben Cowell (National Trust), and draws on research material from the 'Tales of the Frontier' and 'Contested Common Land' large projects. The book is available free as an e-book from the Bloomsbury Academic website.

www.bloomsburyacademic.com

Project Updates

We always like to receive updates from Landscape and Environment projects but they are especially welcome at this time as we continue to develop our new website.

Warplands



The Director's Impact Fellowship has commissioned Professor Mike Pearson (University of Aberystwyth) to write a performance that will be one of the main outputs of the Impact Fellowship. *Warplands* is the resulting *soundwork* by Mike Pearson and composer John Hardy that combines text and musical composition. The work builds directly upon the approaches and techniques pioneered in the Landscape and Environment programme funded *Carrlands* project. A live interpretation of *Carrlands* was performed at the Living Landscapes conference in 2009. *Warplands* is inspired by the area where the rivers Trent and Ouse enter the Humber and meet at Trent Falls. Particular sites of interest are; 'Alkborough Flats' a new wetland habitat that has been flooded as part of the Environment Agency's tidal defence scheme; 'Julian's Bower' a unicursal maze or labyrinth thought to be of medieval origin; and Ousefleet, the 'emptiest place in Britain' according to the 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map. The *soundwork* will be in two *movements*, created around the notion of *prospect*: one located at the turf maze at Alkborough and *looking down from* the limestone escarpment; and one at Ousefleet in the warplands themselves, *looking out from*. The overall aim is to enhance public appreciation and understanding of apparently deserted places and to explicate the processes of landscape formation and the role of human agency in acts of drainage, warping (building up the land from river sediments) and forfeiture: how did this place come to be as it is; and what will it shortly become? How might one encounter, engage with, and describe landscapes lacking monumentality and conventional scenic heritage, without those features that arrest the eye and around which a scene coalesces? The work also explores the potential for performance to strengthen local and regional regard for landscapes off the beaten track: to occasion a critical reappraisal of the inherent qualities of places rarely visited. The performance itself will take place during the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Annual Conference on Thursday 1st September at 6:45pm at the Society's Headquarters in South Kensington, London. The performance will also be filmed in its entirety and posted online for people to view. The maze at Alkborough (Julian's Bower) provided the logo image for the Annual Conference (above) for which Programme Director Stephen Daniels, is Conference Chair.

Landscape and Environment project books

Several project teams have now published books based on the research completed for their Landscape and Environment projects, whilst a number of other volumes are currently being prepared. Chapters on Landscape and Environment projects have also featured in other volumes. Recently published books include:

Title *Contested Common Land: Environmental Governance Past and Present*

Authors: C.P. Rodgers, E.A. Straughton, A.J.L. Winchester, and M. Pieraccini

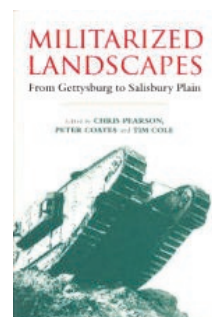
Publisher: Earthscan



Title : *Militarized Landscapes: From Gettysburg to Salisbury Plain*

Editors: C. Pearson, P. Coates and T. Cole

Publisher: Continuum



Title: *Process: Landscape and Text*

Editors: C. Brace and A. Johns-Putra

Publisher: Rodopi



Title: *Site-Specific Performance*

Author: Mike Pearson

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

