




Arts and Humanities Research Council
Landscape and Environment Programme

Annual Review

2006 - 2007



A large, leafless tree stands in a grassy field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that silhouettes the tree's intricate branches. The sky is a mix of soft pinks and oranges, with some light clouds. The ground is a dark green, suggesting grass.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council
Landscape and Environment Programme

Annual Review 2006 - 07

Programme Director : Professor S Daniels

Programme Coordinator : Ms C Lloyd

Programme Manager : Dr G Lambourne

Contact details:

Sir Clive Granger Building,
University of Nottingham,
University Park,
Nottingham, NG7 2RD, UK.

Tel. +44 (0)115 8466071

Fax. +44 (0)115 9515249

E-mail: landscape@nottingham.ac.uk

www.landscape.ac.uk

Front cover image credits - clockwise from top left:

- Carrlands © Mike Pearson from Carrlands Smaller grant project
- Women in Pa' Dalih longhouse performing the Hornbill dance © Monica Janowski from The Cultured Rainforest Larger Grant project
- Aboriginal Canoes Communicating with the 'Monarch' and the 'Tom Tough', 28 August 1855' by John Thomas Baines, 1868. © National Maritime Museum, London from Art and Travel workshops
- Valenciennes © Andrew Spicer from The Early Modern Parish Church Larger grant project
- Bomber flying through Grasmere © Polly Atkin from A place re-imagined collaborative studentship award
- Type 93 radar, RAF Trimington, Norfolk © Matthew Flintham from The Future of Landscape Larger grant project



Kelabit working in a wet rice field © The Cultured Rainforest project team

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
EMERGING THEMES	3
THE PROJECTS	4
Smaller grant case study - Liquid City	5
Network case study - Living in a material world	6
Collaborative studentship case study - London before London	7
EVENTS	8
COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS	9
PROJECT DETAILS	10



Valenciennes © Andrew Spicer from The Early Modern Parish Church Larger grant project

INTRODUCTION

This second Annual Review covers the period of September 2006 to December 2007. Following the main achievements set out in the first year, the establishment of Programme structures, the commissioning of projects, the launch of the website and the start of projects from the first call, this second year was an intense phase of the Programme's five year term which saw all of the thirty seven projects in progress, at various stages of their duration. The diversity of the projects has extended the scope of landscape and environment as cultural forms to include film, music, performance, military terrain and legal discourse. With all the projects underway it has been possible to begin identifying emergent themes within the Programme. For example 'mobility' and also 'performance' have emerged strongly as paradigmatic themes across a range of projects (see 'Themes').

This year the first Programme conference events 'Literary Geographies' and 'Liquid Landscapes' were held (see 'Events'). In addition to these events several networking and outreach activities took place including the representation of the Programme by the Director on the partners' board of Living with Environmental Change (LWEC), a major interdisciplinary research and policy partnership to tackle environmental change, and on the steering committee of a major European initiative *Landscape Studies; Trends and Potentialities* organized by the humanities division of the European Science Foundation.

In terms of the operation of the Programme, a new Co-ordinator was employed in September 2007 and the 'Directorate' was established to enhance the profile of Landscape and Environment by developing connections within and beyond the programme.



Bomber flying through Grasmere © Polly Atkin from A place re-imagined collaborative studentship award

AIMS & OBJECTIVES - YEAR 2

Programme aims and objectives in this second of the five years were worked on as the projects got underway. A platform has been developed from which to build on the aims and objectives during the rest of the Programme that will be delivered at different levels of priority and realisation.

- The main aim of breaking new ground by bringing together a range of researchers to address landscape and environment was achieved with all projects underway.
- Researchers have been brought together physically in the Network and Workshop projects and the first Programme events.
- The scope of landscape and environment as cultural forms has been extended to include film, music, performance, military terrain and legal discourse.
- Collaboration has been built into the Programme with Collaborative Studentships and the high level of partnership between institutions and disciplines (including non-academic stakeholders).
- Priority has been given to identifying emergent themes as well as developing further those designated in the Programme specification.
- The supporting of new researchers has been achieved with early career researchers filling the 13 post graduate and several post-doctoral positions.
- The PI's who are early career researchers in permanent posts direct the Smaller Grants and Networks and Workshops, although one of the Larger Grants ('The Indian Ocean') is directed by a newly appointed young lecturer.
- It is too early to for much public dissemination to have been achieved in terms of outcomes but a number of projects have their own websites (see links from the programme website) which promote public awareness.



View of an ushnu © Nick Branch from the Inca Ushnus Larger grant project

EMERGING THEMES

An important part of the Programme is the focus of the research on a collection of themes in order to enrich understandings of landscape and environment at all levels. There are six predetermined themes that reach across disciplinary boundaries that were informed by pre-programme consultations and framework seminars. The Programme themes were identified to attract researchers across the arts and humanities and used in the selection process. However, as the research has progressed new and exciting cross project themes are emerging as additions to the pre-determined themes.

This year two major themes have emerged; **mobility** and **performance**. The theme of mobility crosses over a handful of projects, predominantly network and workshop awards. For instance *Art and Travel workshops* involved six workshops in the UK and the USA. The main focus of the workshops was to investigate art and travel as historical and ongoing interlinked cultural practices. Each workshop approached the overall subject via a specific theme or issue: investigating the archive, identity, narrative, science, landscape and empire, and the findings will facilitate systematic and co-ordinated research into the subject at the new research centre for the study of art and travel at the National Maritime Museum. Similarly *Empire and landscape in the long 18th century* focuses on landscape art but in terms of imperial Britain in the 18th the 19th centuries. The research workshop series seeks to document and analyse the ways in which some of the very different landscapes found within the British Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries came to be defined in relation to each other, an area that scholars have seldom considered. A third project focussing on mobility is the aptly named *On-the-go*. This research starts with the premise that “movement and settlement define our lives and fashion our identity”. Consisting of three workshops that look at approaches and understandings of landscape, mobility and performance this project crosses over both themes by asking as part of the projects aims how the performative lenses of dance, drama, music and film can help the understanding of the imaginative construction and sensory perception of mobility and settlement. Performance is emerging as a major theme and is therefore to be the focus of a future Programme event. Projects such as Mike Pearson’s *Carrlands: mediated manifestations of site specific performance in the Ancholme valley, Lincolnshire* is designed to aid public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of landscape through active participation and engagement and has produced a series of original sound compositions – combining spoken word, music and effects which can be downloaded through the Programme website. The network project *Living in a material world* uses performance to explore the notions of place and space through location based workshops and has produced outcomes including performance, radio play, papers, video, visual arts practices. Although the theme of performance permeates through many of the research projects a mention of the larger grant project Inca Ushnus: landscape, site and symbol in the Andes illustrates the diversity of the projects concerned. This project is investigating the Inca architectural construction known as the ushnu thought to offer a restricted, sanctified space reserved for use by the Inca king and Incas-by-privilege as a platform for ritualistic performativity.



Garden © Andrew Church from *Writing the landscapes of everyday life: lay narratives of the home garden*

THE PROJECTS

This second year of the Programme saw the the content develop with research in progress in all 37 projects by June 2007 (for a full list see 'Project Details'). By the end of the year 14 projects were successfully completed, 9 Smaller Grants and 6 Workshops; most of the 5 Networks were at a midway stage; the 5 Collaborative Studentships had been in progress 15 months and all 12 Larger Grants were underway. The projects were asked to complete progress report forms in October which showed that all projects have progressed as planned.

The 9 Smaller Grants have delivered Programme-level value through the participation of 7 award holders in this year's Programme events, the enlisting of all award holders in future Programme activity, the development of transferable methodologies (for example GIS in literary and archaeological research) and some high levels of public engagement through outputs, for example exhibitions, films and interactive websites.

The 6 Workshops have demonstrated high levels of intellectual exchange, commitment and enthusiasm, engaging a wide range of participants by discipline, affiliation and nationality. They have delivered Programme level value by formulating emergent themes, sources and methodologies in landscape and environment research. The Director has agreed to be part of the future plans of the 'Art and Travel' Workshop, representing the Programme at a new Centre for Art and Travel based at the National Maritime Museum.

The 5 Networks, midway through their duration, are engaging with the programme more widely by offering a forum for other award holders (including those on other Networks) and developing innovative modes of workshop operation, with mixes of venues, including field sites, art studios, exhibition galleries and seminar rooms.

The Collaborative Studentships are progressing well with all students completing their formal training year with their HEI and the various research preliminaries such as literature reviews and pilot studies. The collaborations with the non-academic partners, a key programme level value, are working successfully.

The staffing, studentships and structures for all Larger Grants are in place. Pilot studies are underway and also some sustained field research for those with earlier start dates. They are already delivering programme level value with contributions to the programme website with links to their own and some public events, for example the conference which launched Tate Britain's 'The Sublime Object'.



Mumbai © Matthew Gandy

Smaller grant case study

Principle investigator - Matthew Gandy

The full title of the project is 'Liquid city: water, landscape and social formation in twenty-first century Mumbai'. It aims to explore the material and metaphorical dimensions to water and landscape in the city of Mumbai. Although built on a series of islands surrounded by seawater Mumbai (formally Bombay) still suffers persistently from serious freshwater distribution problems.

The major outcome of this project a documentary film called "Liquid City" which is available from the PI Matthew Gandy. It explores the complexity of water politics in Mumbai ranging from the engineering challenge of transferring nearly 3,000 million litres of water a day to the city from the jungles, lakes and mountains of the state of Maharashtra, to debates over flooding, privatization and social conflict. By recording in a city where 60 per cent of the 18 million residents live in slums, 'Liquid City' shows how access to domestic water supply can be indicative of social structure, and how inhabitants meet their basic water needs. Using film as a method of research has allowed the project to capture authentic views of people affected by the water crisis in real time. It gives the viewer a visual and audio sense of what it is like to live in the slums of Mumbai and shows the juxtaposition of how the rich view water as a commodity, filling swimming pools and enjoying fancy water features, in comparison to the views of the poor of water as a source of life. It also examines whether water will continue to be distributed by the state or handed over to private operators and explores the flooding and public health impacts of inadequate infrastructure. The research found that conflict over water was especially intense on the urban fringe where there are extensive problems with corruption, violence and uncontrolled land development. The project found, however, that city engineers remain proud of the achievements of the post-independence era despite the continuing lack of access to basic services for the city's poor.

The film was made in collaboration with the innovative NGO organisation Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research (PUKAR). The production team spent two weeks on location in Mumbai, interviewing politicians, engineers, NGOs, artists and local people – including slum dwellers – to build on earlier research carried out by Dr Gandy and Dr Harris since their first visit in 2002. The project has pulled together skills and knowledge from different agencies and has offered the opportunity to two young Indians from PUKAR to visit London for the first time for the post-production process. One of them, Savitri, said: "The film's advantage is that it's made by people from both Mumbai and London – not by a foreign production crew just in the city to shoot some scenes and then leave." Professor Gandy added: "The project also addresses issues that lie beyond Anglophone culture and critically reflects on the cultural exchanges between Mumbai and London that have impacted on both the production and interpretation of urban landscapes."

http://www.landscape.ac.uk/research/smaller/liquid_city.htm



Living in a material world

Living in a material world © Angela Piccini

Network case study

Principle investigator - Angela Piccini

This Network was set up as a response to discussions held between participants in the emergent “Performativity/Place/Space” research theme at the University of Bristol (led by Professor Martin White with RCUK Fellows Dr Jo Carruthers and Dr Angela Piccini) and colleagues in the southwest of England and in Wales. The aims of the network were to stimulate cross-disciplinary fertilisation of methodological approaches to place and space through site-based workshops and reflective symposia; to produce new understandings of place and space; to generate genuinely interdisciplinary methodologies that can be introduced to the wider academic and cultural sphere.

To meet these aims the series of workshops were location-based to foster cross-disciplinary approaches to understanding 'landscapes' as networks of practised places. The particular focus is on 'emptiness', specifically locations that are seen to be abandoned, degraded, disappeared, transitory, unmarked yet which are materially rich. This focus engages with the ways in which landscape and environment are often valued or devalued, remembered and forgotten, enabling them to contest and complicate assumptions regarding 'empty space' as well as trace the cultural configurations that create 'emptiness'. 'Emptiness' thus focuses research questions on the specificities of the active constitution and performance of landscape and environment.

The network's weekend workshop in the military firing zone on Mynydd Epynt at Sennybridge, Wales in May 2007 has been a highlight of the project. The aim was to work towards the goal of how to 'tell' others - *"find a 'way of telling' about it which has personal and communal currency" (Pearson 1998: 41)*. Participants were from the academic disciplines of Performance Studies, Historical Studies, Literature, Religious Studies, Film Studies, Fine Art, Geography and included artists, film directors and the MoD. This symposium invited all participants to offer a 2-minute snapshot of a memory of the weekend, creating a collage from the group's experience that attempted to avoid any framing 'description' of the site. Etymologies — the ways in which words and things 'place' us — were discussed and also the ways in which ingrained histories, dispositions and visualization practices (particularly the photographic) drive our responses and experiences. This presented ways of seeing how the different practices and disciplines used and responded to different vocabularies without having to approach 'interdisciplinarity' too directly. *"The visiting group of artists and academics seemed to share an intense, reflexive focus on the material and aesthetic qualities of place whilst the military seemed equally focused on space – a site of configurations designed to shape modes of being from which thought is absent ... " (John Adams - participant)*

An output of the project has been the interactive website (<http://humanitieslab.stanford.edu/materialworld/11>) where participants can post their thoughts, findings and outputs and presents the network with a way of transforming fieldwork and symposia into another way of telling.



London before London

Collaborative studentship case study

Principle investigator - Danielle Schreve

Collaborative PhD student - Caroline Juby

The Palaeolithic or the 'Old Stone Age' began in the London area around 450,000 years ago. Within this time several glacial and interglacial transitions occurred and a variety of large mammals and hominins made what is now Greater London their home.

"There has never been a more appropriate time in which to take an interest in our environment's long-term evolution" says Caroline Juby, PhD student on the London before London collaborative studentship project. "With everyone questioning the possible impact of future climate change, there is unprecedented exposure of Pleistocene (Ice Age) climate change in the public domain". In addition to this Juby highlights that there has been some recent high-profile Palaeolithic research but none that concentrates on the city of London. In fact there has been a virtual absence of directed research on the Palaeolithic and wider Pleistocene environment of London for more than half a century, despite the richness of the material available for study. This research project is therefore very timely and is piecing together a Pleistocene framework for the capital by documenting the physical remains of Palaeolithic peoples and reconstructing the dynamic earliest landscapes of London.

A significant area of the research is involved in making new observations on the existing artifacts by exploring the history of the collections in the context of 19th and early 20th century. Several sites in West London have been discovered over the last 150 years giving a fascinating insight to the exotic original 'Londoners' and the very different landscape they lived in. Unfortunately, a major difficulty with the research has been that many of the specimens collected from the massive gravel excavation of the city in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries were not recorded adequately as they were considered primarily as curiosities rather than objects of wider significance. However, by taking an integrated approach to research through encompassing methods such as vertebrate palaeontology, archaeology, sedimentology, terrace stratigraphy, geochronology and biological proxy information, such as that from pollen, molluscs or beetles, the project is working to overcome these issues.

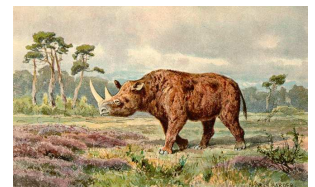
Examples of findings in the area based on the map above are that in South Acton and Brentford remains of species such as hippopotamus, hyaena, straight-tusked elephant, rhinoceros, red deer, fallow deer have been found. These were warm climate species with summer temperatures approximately 3°C higher than today 125,000 years BP. However, cooler winters meant that remains of mammoths, woolly rhinoceros, brown bear, reindeer and bison have been found in the areas of Isleworth, Battersea, Twickenham and Kew.



Pointed hand axe from the Robert Garraway Rice collection at the The Museum of London© Museum of London



Spotted Hyena © IUCN: <http://www.hyaenidae.org.html>



Woolly Rhino © Heinrich Harder: http://www.copyrightexpired.com/Heinrich_Harder/woolly_rhino_nashorn.html



Reindeer © Deadly Photo: http://blather.net/abroad/archives/69_degrees_north



Hippo © BBC Pictures: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/5381642.stm



Public lecture in Norwich © Andrew Spicer from The Early Modern Parish Church Larger grant

EVENTS

Two programme events were held this year. They were both co-sponsored and involved a mix of project participants and others beyond the Programme working on landscape and environment from an arts and humanities perspective. The topic of each was chosen on the basis of emergent programme themes.

Literary Geographies: a multidisciplinary conference

University of Nottingham 20-22 July 2007

This event was co-convened by the Programme Director with the University of Nottingham's Humanities Research Centre. It attracted over 50 delegates, with 25 speakers, including academic staff and postgraduates from a number of disciplines, from within and beyond the Programme. Keynote lectures were given by Professors Jonathan Bate (Warwick) and WJT Mitchell (Chicago). The plenary discussion began with a presentation by Professor Anne Janowitz, a member of the Programme Steering Committee. Thematic sessions included Landscape and Iconography, Ideas of the North, Colonial Space, Water, Culture and Society and Sites of Performance. Throughout the conference there was a display of the AHRC project 'Mapping Performance Culture: Nottingham 1857-1867.'

Liquid Landscapes

Royal Geographical Society, London 31 August 2007

This session of the RGS Annual conference was convened by the Director and Professor Mike Pearson, a project PI and a member of the Programme Steering Committee. It addressed an emergent theme of the Programme, in Smaller Grants and Networks and Workshops, and one in current landscape research at large, the cultural and imaginative relations between landscape and liquidity. The 8 papers included 5 from the award holders. The event was very well attended with over fifty in the audience.

In addition the Director has given a series of presentations about the Programme. These have included both national (AHRC Research Committee, the Landscape Research Group and Programme workshops) and international venues. There have also been many project events that the Programme is supporting. These have primarily been networks and workshops events, details of which can be found under 'past events' on the Programme website.



© Living with environmental change

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

One of the main focus's of the year has been the representation by the Director of both AHRC as a whole and the Programme on the partners board of Living with Environmental Change (LWEC). This is a 10 year programme of major interdisciplinary research and policy partnership to tackle environmental change and includes partners from six UK Research Councils and nine Departments of State, Government, and Agencies. The priority has been to ensure that the arts and humanities perspective on the environment demonstrated by the programme is an integral part of LWEC, and will frame key objectives.

The Director made contacts with the Landscape Research Group at a project meeting in Cornwall with a view to exploring collaboration. LRG is UK based but increasingly international in membership with a formal affiliation with the Nordic Landscape Research Group. By attending the next LRG board meeting it is hoped that this will help to establish an agreement over co-sponsorship of events and publication in LRG's journal and book series.

On an international front the Director, along with other national directors of landscape programmes, is now on the steering committee of a major European initiative *Landscape Studies; Trends and Potentialities* which is being organized by the humanities division of the European Science Foundation. This is both a multi-disciplinary and multi-national initiative involving both academics and other stakeholders such as planners and policy makers. Activity this year has focussed on preparations for a series of five meetings in 2008 in various European centres, one of which on 'Landscape meanings, values and perceptions' will be held in the UK and organized by the Director.

In June the Director gave a presentation on the Programme at a multi-disciplinary symposium at the University of Virginia in June 2007 titled *Geography and the Humanities* sponsored by the Association of American Geographers and American Council of Learned Societies. As a result he has agreed to be on the board of this ongoing initiative, with a view to expanding its scope to include a wide range of landscape and environmental researchers and will be advising on subsequent meetings and publication.

Collaboration is built into the Programme through the projects and operates at many levels. They range from international academic partnerships within some of the larger and smaller grant projects to technical expertise required for audio-visual outputs. Also Networks and Workshops involve participation by academic and non academic stakeholders and Collaborative Studentships are partnerships with non-academic stakeholders.



PROJECT DETAILS

HEI	Title	Lead Proposer HEI
Studentships		
Lancaster University	A Place Re-imagined: The Spatial, Literary and Cultural making of dove Cottage, Grasmere	Simon Bainbridge
Royal Holloway, University of London	London Before London: Reconstructing a Palaeolithic Landscape	Dr Danielle Schreve
Kingston University	Reinventing the New Town for the 21st Century	Deyan Sudjic
University of Nottingham	Animalscapes and Empire: New Perspectives on the Iron Age to Romano-British Transition	Dr Naomi Sykes
University of Edinburgh	Constructing the Military Landscape: Board of Ordnance Maps and Plans of Scotland c.1707-c.1875	Professor C Withers
Research Networks and Workshops		
University of Nottingham	Land Art and the Culture of Landscape, 1967-1977	Mr N Alfrey
University of Aberdeen	Landscapes beyond land: New ethnographies of landscape and environment	Dr A Arnason
University of Exeter	Understanding Landscapes through Creative Auto-Ethnographies	Dr C Brace
University of London, Royal Holloway	On-the-Go: Mobilities, Settlement and Performance	Professor P Crang
University of Leicester	Perceptions of medieval landscapes and settlements: new directions	Professor C Dyer
University College London	From the technological sublime to the urban pastoral: rethinking urban and industrial landscapes	Dr M Gandy
University of York	Empire and Landscape in the long 18th century	Dr M Hallet
University of Sussex	The Landscape and Environment of Inter-war England - an interdisciplinary approach	Professor A J Howkins
University of Bristol	Living in a Material World: A cross-disciplinary location-based enquiry into the performativity of emptiness	Dr AA Piccini
National Maritime Museum	Art and travel workshops	Dr G Quilley
Lancaster University	Re-enchantment and Reclamation: New Perceptions of Morecambe Bay through Dance, Film and Sound	Mr N Stewart
Smaller Grants		
University College London	Landscape Capital and Fragile Communities on Antikythera, Greece	Dr AH Bevan
Lancaster University	From Goslar to Grasmere: Moving Through and Dwelling in Wordsworth's Manuscript Spaces	Dr S Bushell
University of Brighton	Writing the landscape of everyday life: lay narratives of the home garden	Professor A Church
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	Unlocking Historic Landscapes in the Eastern Mediterranean	Mr J Crow
University College London	Liquid city: Water, landscape and social formation in twenty-first century Mumbai	Dr M Gandy
University of St Andrews	A Transforming Landscape of Journeys: An Ethnohistorical Reconstruction of Southwestern Amazonia in the Nineteenth Century	Professor P G Gow
Aberystwyth University	Carrlands: mediated manifestations of site-specific performance in the Ancholme valley, North Lincolnshire	Professor M Pearson
Oxford Brookes University	Landscape as conceptual art: retrieving values in John Latham's conceptualisation of 'Five Sisters' (1976) as monumental process sculptures	Mr C Richardson
University of London	Touchstone test-piece	Mr D Shipsides
Larger Grants		
University of Oxford	Landscape, people, and parks: environmental change in the Lower Omo valley, Southwestern Ethiopia	Dr D M Anderson
University of Cambridge	The Cultured Rainforest: Long-term human ecological histories in the highlands of Borneo	Professor GW Barker
University of London	Inca ushnu: landscape, site and symbol in the Andes	Dr NP Branch
University of Bristol	Militarized landscapes in the twentieth-century: Britain, France and the United States	Dr P Coates
University of Liverpool	Popular Musicscapes and the Characterisation of the Urban Environment	Dr S Cohen
University of Hertfordshire	Changing landscapes, changing environments, enclosures and culture in Northamptonshire, 1700-1900	Professor MF Cragoe
University of Durham	Tales of the Frontier: political representations and practices inspired by Hadrian's Wall	Dr R Hingley
Tate Galleries	The Sublime Object: Nature, Art and Language	Mr R Humphreys
University of Southampton	The Indian Ocean: narratives in literature and law	Dr S Jones
Royal College of Art	The Future of Landscape and the Moving Image	Mr P Keiller
University of Newcastle Upon Tyne	Contested Common Land: environmental governance, law and sustainable land management c.1600-2006	Professor C Rodgers
Oxford Brookes University	The Early Modern Parish Church and the Religious Landscape	Dr A Spicer