View this email in your browser

Translate

Centre for the GeoHumanities Newsletter : No 6 October 2019

Welcome to the sixth Centre for the GeoHumanities newsletter. Please get in touch with us on geohumanities@rhul.ac.uk if you have news you would like to share or would like your work featured.

Upcoming Dates for your Diary
(more info below)

26th September - 24th November - Architectures of Degrowth- Oslo Architectural Triennale, Oslo

7th November - Rehearsals for Uncertain Futures: Screening + Panel Q & A, Followed by the feature film Earth, Dir. Nikolaus Geryhalter, The Lyric Hammersmith

19th November - Provincialism at Large: 'Customary rights, property and contested belongings in English commons and village greens, 1795-1965' presented by Katrina Navickas (University of Hertfordshire), Bedford Square, London

Save the date: Wednesday 6th May- 5th Denis Cosgrove Lecture- Professor Stephen Daniels, Visionary Geography: William Blake and English Landscape

Upcoming GeoHumanities Events

Enough: The Architecture of Degrowth - Oslo Architectural Triennale
26th September - 24th November
Various locations, Oslo

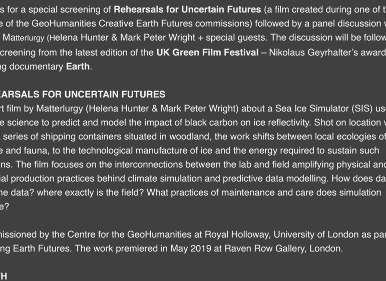
Centre member Cecilie Sachs-Olsen, a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellow based in the Department of Geography, RHUL, has been part of the curatorial team for the 2019 Oslo Architecture Triennale. Exploring the theme of Degrowth, "ENOUGH responds to an era of climate emergency and social inequality by proposing alternatives to the unsustainable and unfair paradigm of growth. The festival explores the architecture of Degrowth, an economy of shared plenty in which human and ecological flourishing matter most. It is time to call time on too much for the few and too little for the many. Join us as we propose a vision of Enough for all."

The website details the series of events and exhibitions that Cecilie and the curatorial team have assembled.

Triennale Reviews:

"Telling new stories for the future of the planet, this year's Oslo Architecture Triennale, Enough: The Architecture of Degrowth, peels back the skin of capitalism and finds hope in the hopeless" Architectural Review.

"This new model for a triennale celebrates ideas and knowledge above the creation of new products and buildings" Wallpaper



Rehearsals for Uncertain Futures: Screening + Panel Q & A Followed by the feature film Earth, Dir. Nikolaus Geryhalter

7th November, 19.00, part of the UK Green Film Festival, The Lyric Hammersmith , Tickets £6-8
Book here

Join us for a special screening of **Rehearsals for Uncertain Futures** (a film created during one of the Centre of the GeoHumanities Creative Earth Futures commissions) followed by a panel discussion with artists Matterlurgy (Helena Hunter & Mark Peter Wright + special guests. The discussion will be followed by a screening from the latest edition of the **UK Green Film Festival** – Nikolaus Geyrhalter's award winning documentary **Earth**.

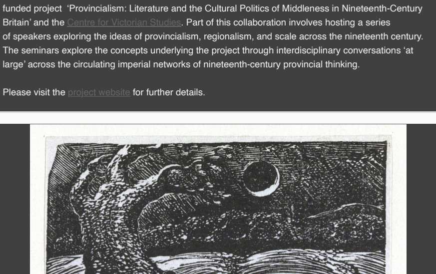
REHEARSALS FOR UNCERTAIN FUTURES
A short film by Matterlurgy (Helena Hunter & Mark Peter Wright) about a Sea Ice Simulator (SIS) used in climate science to predict and model the impact of black carbon on ice reflectivity. Shot on location within SIS, a series of shipping containers situated in woodland, the work shifts between local ecologies of wildlife and fauna, to the technological manufacture of ice and the energy required to sustain such relations. The film focuses on the interconnections between the lab and field amplifying physical and material production practices behind climate simulation and predictive data modelling. How does data become data? where exactly is the field? What practices of maintenance and care does simulation require?

Commissioned by the Centre for the GeoHumanities at Royal Holloway, University of London as part of Creating Earth Futures. The work premiered in May 2019 at Raven Row Gallery, London.

EARTH
Several billion tons of earth are moved annually by humans – with shovels, excavators or dynamite. Nikolaus Geyrhalter's (Our Daily Bread + Homo Sapiens) latest documentary Earth observes people in mines, quarries and large construction sites in a constant struggle to transform the planet. Earth won the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, Berlinale Forum (2019) and the International Award, Sheffield International Documentary Festival (2019).

Film still, Matterlurgy, 2019

Book Tickets
Matterlurgy
Nikolaus Geyrhalter
UK Green Film Festival

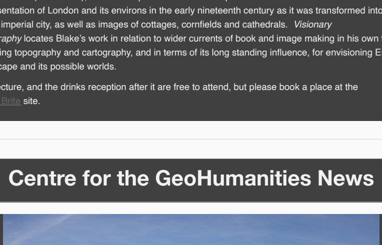


Provincialism at Large: 'Customary rights, property and contested belongings in English commons and village greens, 1795-1965' presented by Katrina Navickas (University of Hertfordshire)

19th November, 2-4 pm, Bedford Square, London

During 2019-20 the Centre for the GeoHumanities is lucky enough to be in collaboration with the AHRC funded project 'Provincialism: Literature and the Cultural Politics of Middleness in Nineteenth-Century Britain' and the Centre for Victorian Studies. Part of this collaboration involves hosting a series of speakers exploring the ideas of provincialism, regionalism, and scale across the nineteenth century. The seminars explore the concepts underlying the project through interdisciplinary conversations 'at large' across the circulating imperial networks of nineteenth-century provincial thinking.

Please visit the project website for further details.



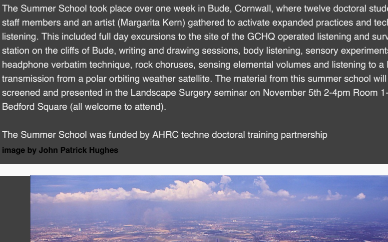
5th Denis Cosgrove Lecture - Visionary Geography: William Blake and the English Landscape
6th May, 6.30pm, The British Academy, London

The Centre for the GeoHumanities is delighted to announce that the fifth Denis Cosgrove Lecture will be given by Professor Stephen Daniels (University of Nottingham).

Geography and Vision are key words in the works of Denis Cosgrove, together the title of his Inaugural Lecture at Royal Holloway in 1996 and that of a career framing collection of essays published in 2008. This lecture explores meetings of material and imaginative worlds in the works of painter and poet William Blake (1757-1827), and their implications for landscape as a field of vision. It addresses Blake's representation of London and its environs in the early nineteenth century as it was transformed into a major imperial city, as well as images of cottages, cornfields and cathedrals. *Visionary Geography* locates Blake's work in relation to wider currents of book and image making in his own time, including topography and cartography, and in terms of its long standing influence, for envisioning English landscape and its possible worlds.

The lecture, and the drinks reception after it are free to attend, but please book a place at the Event Brite site.

Centre for the GeoHumanities News



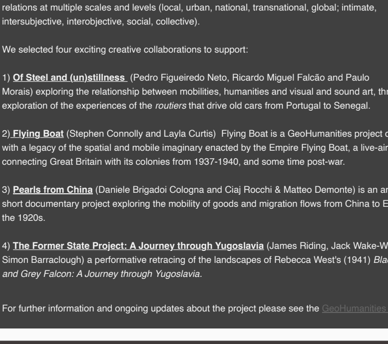
The GeoHumanities Summer School

The GeoHumanities Summer School co-led by Sofie Narbed, Cecilie Sachs-Olsen and Sasha Engelmann (all RHUL Geography) with Angus Carlyle and Mark Peter Wright (both UAL Sound Arts) offered a training programme for doctoral students in expanded practices of listening to the field, the voice and the body. Doctoral researchers spend significant time listening to their supervisors, colleagues, or to the discipline in which their research is situated. However, concepts and techniques of listening are not central to doctoral training. The summer school programme addressed several questions, namely: what are we missing in the spaces between questioning, making and presenting? How can the cultivation of the practices of listening to field sites, human voices and bodily states inform and sharpen research? How might critical approaches to listening be absorbed into research practice and pedagogy?

The Summer School took place over one week in Bude, Cornwall, where twelve doctoral students, five staff members and an artist (Margarita Kern) gathered to activate expanded practices and techniques of listening. This included full day excursions to the site of the GCHQ operated listening and surveillance station on the cliffs of Bude, writing and drawing sessions, body listening, sensory experiments, headphone verbatim technique, rock choruses, sensing elemental volumes and listening to a live transmission from a polar orbiting weather satellite. The material from this summer school will be screened and presented in the Landscape Surgery seminar on November 5th 2-4pm Room 1-01 at 11 Bedford Square (all welcome to attend).

The Summer School was funded by AHRC techne doctoral training partnership

Image by John Patrick Hughes



AD 2060 - Flying Boat "Centaurus" returning to St Mary's Resevoir aqua-port. Heathrow climate migrant holding centre is to the rear of the photo.

Creative Commissions update: Variations on Mobility

The Department DiSSGeA of the University of Padova (in the framework of the Department of Excellence Project 'Mobility and the Humanities' financed by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research) and the Royal Holloway Centre for the GeoHumanities are excited to announce the four funded creative commissions on the theme of 'variations on mobility'.

Virtual, physical, potential and corporeal fluxes; networks, routes, circulation and stasis of human and non-human entities: *Mobilities* have become a frame through which we sense spatial practices and relations at multiple scales and levels (local, urban, national, transnational, global; intimate, intersubjective, interobjective, social, collective).

We selected four exciting creative collaborations to support:

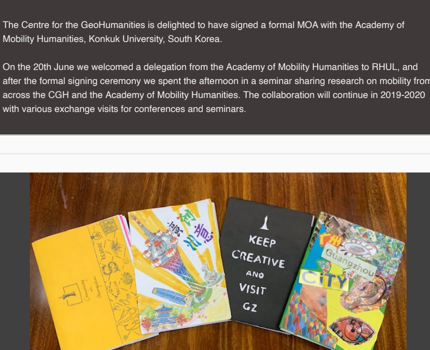
1) **Of Steel and (un)stillness** (Pedro Figueiredo Neto, Ricardo Miguel Falcão and Paulo Morais) exploring the relationship between mobilities, humanities and visual and sound art, through an exploration of the experiences of the *routiers* that drive old cars from Portugal to Senegal.

2) **Flying Boat** (Stephen Connolly and Layla Curtis) Flying Boat is a GeoHumanities project concerned with a legacy of the spatial and mobile imaginary enacted by the Empire Flying Boat, a live-air service connecting Great Britain with its colonies from 1937-1940, and some time post-war.

3) **Pearls from China** (Daniele Brigadoi Cologna and Ciaj Rocchi & Matteo Demonte) is an animated short documentary project exploring the mobility of goods and migration flows from China to Europe in the 1920s.

4) **The Former State Project: A Journey through Yugoslavia** (James Riding, Jack Wake-Walker and Simon Barraclough) a performative retracing of the landscapes of Rebecca West's (1941) *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon: A Journey through Yugoslavia.*

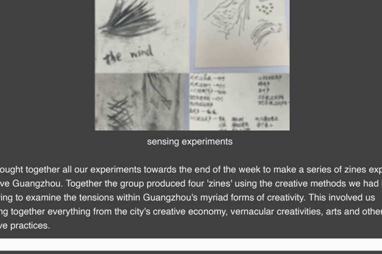
For further information and ongoing updates about the project please see the GeoHumanities forum.



Partnership with Academy of Mobility Humanities - Konkuk University, South Korea

The Centre for the GeoHumanities is delighted to have signed a formal MOA with the Academy of Mobility Humanities, Konkuk University, South Korea.

On the 20th June we welcomed a delegation from the Academy of Mobility Humanities to RHUL, and after the formal signing ceremony we spent the afternoon in a seminar sharing research on mobility from across the CGH and the Academy of Mobility Humanities. The collaboration will continue in 2019-2020 with various exchange visits for conferences and seminars.



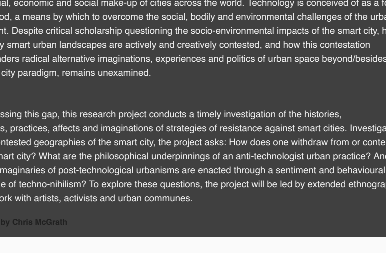
Creative GeoHumanities Summer School, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China

At the end of July, Centre members Sofie Narbed and Harriet Hawkins visited Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou China to run a Creative GeoHumanities summer school. Together with around 50 masters and doctoral students and early career Chinese scholars, they explored the theme of creative geographies over a series of seminars, field-trips and methodological experiments.

sensing experiments

We brought together all our experiments towards the end of the week to make a series of zines exploring Creative Guangzhou. Together the group produced four 'zines' using the creative methods we had been exploring to examine the tensions within Guangzhou's myriad forms of creativity. This involved us bringing together everything from the city's creative economy, vernacular creativities, arts and other creative practices.

Centre for the GeoHumanities New Projects



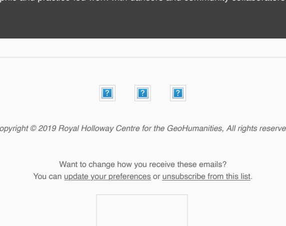
'Beyond smart urbanisms? Techno-nihilism in age of digitally-mediated cities.'

Dr Thomas Dekeyser, British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

From a Google-owned waterfront in Toronto, to the Singaporean 'Smart Nation' scheme and India's '100 Smart Cities' programme, the smart city paradigm is currently charging and changing the visual, material, economic and social make-up of cities across the world. Technology is conceived of as a force for good, a means by which to overcome the social, bodily and environmental challenges of the urban present. Despite critical scholarship questioning the socio-environmental impacts of the smart city, how exactly smart urban landscapes are actively and creatively contested, and how this contestation engenders radical alternative imaginations, experiences and politics of urban space beyond/besides the smart city paradigm, remains unexamined.

Addressing this gap, this research project conducts a timely investigation of the histories, spaces, practices, affects and imaginations of strategies of resistance against smart cities. Investigating the contested geographies of the smart city, the project asks: How does one withdraw from or contest the smart city? What are the philosophical underpinnings of an anti-technologist urban practice? And what imaginaries of post-technological urbanisms are enacted through a sentiment and behavioural attitude of techno-nihilism? To explore these questions, the project will be led by extended ethnographic fieldwork with artists, activists and urban communes.

Image by Chris McGrath



"Dancing in/between cities: bodily practice, creativity, and intercultural encounters in Latin America" Dr. Sofie Narbed, British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

Concerns around socio-cultural inequality and difference are increasingly dominating the ways in which we debate the presents and futures of our cities. While interculturality has, particularly in Latin America, become central to imaginations of civil society and the rhetorics of state policy, more could be done to explore the everyday politics of such relations and how they might be brought about in practice. This innovative research combines dance and geography to investigate creative bodily work as a critical site for (re)thinking how we live through, and forge relations across, difference. Focusing on contemporary dance-making in Quito, Ecuador, this research traces creative intercultural encounters that emerge within and extend beyond the capital to other Latin American centres to interrogate the politics, and possibilities, of dance as a practice of relationality within and between cities. The project will consist of in-depth ethnographic and practice-led work with dancers and community collaborators in Quito and Havana.

Copyright © 2019 Royal Holloway Centre for the GeoHumanities, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

Arts & Humanities Research Council

LEVERHULME TRUST