

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter

June 1999

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Please send any material for inclusion in the Newsletter, and any suggestions for future content, to the editor

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Hard copy is fine but a version on disc (Word or ASCII files please) or as an email message or attachment would be preferable. The Newsletter is published twice a year; copy deadlines are April 1st and October 1st.



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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1998

1. Strategic Plan

The three-year Strategic Plan had been adopted in 1995 and so was due for renewal and/or revision in 1998. A proposal to replace the Strategic Plan with a more concise Statement of Purpose was tabled at the 1999 AGM on 6 January (see the Minutes of this meeting).

2. Conferences

The HPGRG had a high profile at a number of international conferences during 1998. At the 1998 Annual Conference at Guildford, the HPGRG convened three successful and well-attended sessions: 'Darwinism and Geography', 'Exploring the Geographies of Science, Technology and Nature' (with the SCGRG) and 'Medical Geography Research Traditions' (with the GHRG). These sessions reflected the diversity of interests in the history and philosophy of Geography as well as the close links fostered with other Research Groups. Janet Browne (Wellcome Institute) and James Moore (Open University) attended the 1998 Annual Conference as Research Group Guests and presented keynote papers in the 'Darwinism and Geography' session.

The HPGRG organised a two-day conference on 'Postcolonial Geographies' at the University of Southampton on 25-26 June 1998, convened by Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan. Twenty-one papers were presented at this interdisciplinary and international conference, including a plenary paper by Dipesh Chakrabarty from the University of Chicago. The conference was supported by a £500 grant from the RGS-IBG, which funded the travel, registration and subsistence costs of Dipesh Chakrabarty.

Four members of the HPGRG presented papers at the IGU Commission on the History and Philosophy of Geography in Lisbon in August 1998 and a report was published in the November Newsletter.

During 1998 the HPGRG was awarded a £700 grant from the RGS-IBG to support its forthcoming day conference on 'Field-Work in Geography', to be held on 5 May 1999 at Royal Holloway. This conference is being convened by Felix Driver and will include a plenary paper by Dorinda Outram from the University of Rochester, New York.

3. Publications and Communications

The Group places a great emphasis on publishing cutting edge research on the history and philosophy of geography. *Geography and Enlightenment*, edited by David Livingstone and Charles Withers, will be published by the University of Chicago Press in 1999. This volume is based on papers presented at the 1996 HPGRG conference on this theme at the University of Edinburgh.

Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan are preparing a book proposal on *Postcolonial Geographies*, based on papers presented at the 1998 HPGRG conference on this theme at the University of Southampton.

The biannual HPGRG Newsletter is circulated to all members in May and November and is a highly successful channel for publicising the activities of the Group, research activities of