

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter June 2001

<u>Contents:</u>	<u>Page:</u>
New Committee	2
Chair's Report for 2000	3
Annual Report for 2000	4
Minutes Of the 2000 AGM	6
Accounts for 2000	8
HPGRG Postgraduate Awards	9
<i>"Inventing Traditions"</i> by Neil Smith	12
Conference Report: <i>"Geographies of Home"</i>	13
RGS/1BG 2002: Calls for Papers	15
<i>"Geography and Revolution"</i> Conference	24
Obituary: Dra. Graciela Uribe Ortega	25

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

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

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Committee 2001

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HPGRG Annual General Meeting, Plymouth, January 2001 Chair's Report

The activities of the Group over the last year, as in previous years, have focussed on three areas: (1) conference organisation, (2) communication (via the newsletter), and (3) liaison (mainly with the RGS-IBG).

- (1) This year as last the Group supported a major conference – on this occasion a very successful one on Geographies of Home, convened by Alison Blunt and Ann Varley at UCL. The internationalism of the conference was striking and this is something the Group should take note of. In addition, the committee sponsored a successful application to the RGS-IBG Research Division for conference funds by the convenors of the Geography & Revolution conference in Edinburgh. The Group has been notably successful in such applications over the last five years. Finally, the Group was responsible for two sessions at the 2000 RGS-IBG conference on 'Eurocentrism' and 'Enacting Geographies.'
- (2) The Group's newsletter appeared twice during the year, under the editorship of Pyrs Gruffudd. This is an important means of communicating news, especially advance notice of conferences, conference reports, details of publications, and so on. It has also to some extent served as a vehicle for communications about overseas events and publications in the history and philosophy of geography.
- (3) The Group's committee has been consulted by the Research Division of the RGS-IBG on a large number of issues relating to research, teaching and higher education generally. Consultation on AHRB and ESRC matters has been especially notable (see for example the new AHRB guidelines on its subject coverage).

As this is my last report as Chair, I want to thank colleagues on the committee for their hard work for the Group, especially Pyrs Gruffudd who has done a great job as editor of the newsletter for the past 3 years, and Alison Blunt who has served the group outstandingly well as secretary over the same period. In a small Research Group like ours, it is essential to have committed and dynamic people working on the committee, and we are fortunate that Alison and Pyrs have been persuaded to be nominated for the positions of chair and secretary from January 2001.

Felix Driver