

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter July 2002

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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 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 May 1st and November 1st.

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RESEARCH GROUP**

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**HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY
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Annual Report for 2001

1. Constitution and Statement of Purpose

HPGRG activities continued to operate successfully under the revised Constitution, which was agreed at the AGM in 2000. The concise Statement of Purpose continued to be a useful way of publicising the Group's activities.

2. Conferences

HPGRG maintained its high profile at a number of international conferences during 2001. At the 2001 Annual Conference in Plymouth, HPGRG co-convened a day-long session on 'Time/space and society' with SCGRG. HPGRG successfully nominated two Research Group Guests: Celia Lury (Goldsmiths) and John Urry (Lancaster).

HPGRG supported a two-day conference on *Geography and Revolution*, which was convened by David Livingstone and Charles Withers and held at the University of Edinburgh from 18-21 July 2001. HPGRG was awarded £500 by RGS-IBG towards the travel and subsistence costs of one plenary speaker from the USA, and HPGRG also awarded a grant of £100 towards subsidising the postgraduate registration fee. In the event, there were sufficient funds to enable the conference convenors to return £100 to HPGRG. The conference was a great success. It was organised around three key themes: scientific revolutions, technical revolutions and political revolutions. A plenary paper was given by Peter Dear (Cornell), and 11 further papers of 40-45 minutes were presented. The conference followed the highly successful conference on *Geography and Enlightenment* that was held in 1996 at the University of Edinburgh, and also supported by HPGRG.

In 2001, HPGRG was awarded £700 towards an international conference on *Tropical Views and Visions: Images of the Tropical World*. The grant will subsidise postgraduate registration fees and will fund part of the travel and subsistence costs of one plenary speaker from the USA. The conference is being convened by Felix Driver and Luciana Martins, and will be held on 12-13 July 2002 at the National Maritime Museum in London. The conference will address the various ways in which the tropics have been imagined and experienced by British travellers, with particular reference to the global circulation of images, commodities and exotic species over the last three centuries. Keynote speakers will include Michael Dettelbach and Nicholas Thomas. HPGRG has awarded a grant of £100 towards a reduced postgraduate registration fee. As with the *Geography and Revolution* conference, this grant will be returned to HPGRG if there are sufficient funds available after the conference.