

# History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG)

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

# NEWSLETTER

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## 1. Message from the HPGRG Chair

Dear HPGRG member,

With our summer newsletter, I wish to invite you cordially to attend the Annual General Meeting of the History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG) at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference in the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers in London. The RGS-IBG Annual International Conference will take place in the Society at 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR, from Wednesday, 28 August to Friday, 30 August 2019 with pre-conference events starting on Tuesday, 27 August 2019. Our [HPGRG AGM](#) is scheduled to take place on Friday, 30 August 2019 from 13:10 to 14:25 in the RGS-IBG Lowther Room (please see agenda below). You would not need to be registered for the conference if you only came along to attend the HPGRG AGM, but if you plan to do so and have no conference registration, please request a visitor pass from the conference organisers by emailing [ac2019@rgs.org](mailto:ac2019@rgs.org).



Heike Jöns

HPGRG has two vacant committee positions to be elected at the Annual General Meeting 2019, namely the Postgraduate Liaison Officer and the Undergraduate Prize Coordinator, for a first term of three years each. Please let me know if you wish to volunteer for one of these roles or if you have any suggestions for suitable candidates. In this newsletter I wish to thank Dr Pauline Couper (York St John University) for her exemplary work as HPGRG Undergraduate Prize Coordinator over two terms from 2013 to 2019. My sincere gratitude also goes to Dr Thomas Jellis (University of Oxford) for having built up the new HPGRG website and Twitter account and for looking after these with great commitment and dedication from 2013 to 2019. Very many thanks to both, Pauline and Thomas, for their excellent service to HPGRG. The HPGRG role of Website Editor will be merged with the Communications Officer role, as agreed at the 2018 AGM.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Annual General Meeting and hope that you will also be able to attend any other of altogether twelve conference sessions (co-)sponsored by HPGRG, which you will find listed in this newsletter with scheduled timings and rooms (see point 5). May I draw your attention to three special events, for which we wish to encourage your attendance, in particular:

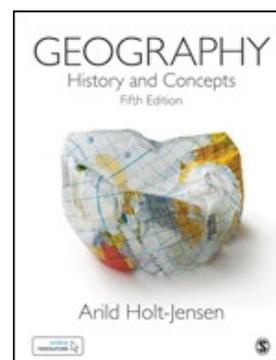
1. On the first conference day, Phil Emmerson (Royal Geographical Society with IBG, UK) and Catherine Oliver (University of Birmingham, UK) have co-organised a panel to re-appraise the landmark book '[Human Geography Today](#)' (1999, edited by Doreen Massey, John Allen, Philip Sarre) twenty years after its publication. The high-profile panel will include John Allen (The Open University, UK), Sarah Radcliffe (University of Cambridge, UK), Sarah Whatmore (University of Oxford, UK), Susan Smith (University of Cambridge, UK) and Gill Valentine (University of Sheffield, UK). This event is scheduled on Wednesday, 28 August 2019 in Session 3 (14:40-16:20) in the RGS-IBG Ondaatje Theatre.
2. The inaugural HPGRG Keynote Lecture will be delivered by Professor Arild Holt-Jensen on the topic of '[60 Years in Geography; The disciplinary memory of a Norwegian Geographer](#)' in the Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164, on Thursday, 29 August 2019 in Session 4 (16:50-18:30), followed by a reflection on the lecture by Professor Ron Johnston. Many thanks to Michiel van Meeteren for taking the lead in organising this HPGRG Keynote Lecture, which will result in a special journal issue publication with responses to Arild's lecture by Michiel and others.



Arild Holt Jensen



Ron Johnston



3. Another highlight in the RGS-IBG programme is the HPGRG-co-sponsored author-meets-critics panel on David Simon's new book '[Holocaust Escapees and Global Development: Hidden Histories](#)' (2019, University of Chicago Press and Pluto Press). An impressive group of panellists will comment on the book before David Simon will respond: Majed Akhter (King's College London, UK), Mona Domosh (Dartmouth College, USA), James Esson (Loughborough University, UK), Ian Klink (University of Oxford, UK), Uma Kothari (The University of Manchester, UK), Boris Michel (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany), Marcus Power (Durham University, UK), Jonathan Rigg (University of Bristol, UK), David Simon (Royal Holloway, University of London, UK / Mistra Urban Futures, Sweden).

In this newsletter we provide the full overview of HPGRG-sponsored sessions together with date, time and room. For more information on the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, please see <https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference/>.

Other information contained in this newsletter includes Michiel van Meeteren's report from the International Symposium on the History of Geographical Thought 'Geographies of Identities and Imaginations' organised by Federico Ferretti and Arlene Crampsie at University College Dublin on 10-12 July 2019.

We do hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, plan to come along to HPGRG sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference and provide us with relevant information on the remit of HPGRG that we can communicate to a wider audience via the next HPGRG Newsletter, the [HPGRG Twitter feed](#) and/or HPGRG website: <https://hpgrg.org.uk/>.

With best regards

Heike

Professor Heike Jöns  
HPGRG Chair  
Geography & Environment  
Loughborough University

## 2. HPGRG General Meeting Agenda

### HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP Annual General Meeting 2019

13:10 to 14:25, Friday, 30th August,  
Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), Lowther Room

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2018 AGM (HJ)
3. HPGRG Sessions for 2019 (FF)
4. HPGRG Research Group Guests for 2019 (HJ)
5. HPGRG Accounts (JB)
6. HPGRG Dissertation Prize (PC)
7. HPGRG Membership (FG)
8. HPGRG Website (TJ)
9. HPGRG Communications and Newsletter (MvM)
10. Committee Membership Terms and Elections (HJ)
11. HPGRG Information Sheet on Job Roles (HJ)
12. 35th HPGRG anniversary in 2020 (HJ)
13. Kropotkin's centenary in 2021 (FF)
14. Possible Research Group Activities (ALL)
15. Call for Sessions for 2020 RGS-IBG Annual International Conference (HJ)
16. Any Other Business



### 3. Conference report: International symposium on the History of Geographical Thought: Geographies of Identities and Imaginations

Organised by Federico Ferretti and Arlene Crampsie (University College Dublin) on behalf of the International Geographical Union, Commission on the History of Geography.

Visiting University College Dublin to attend a symposium on the history of geographic thought surely makes one feel the large footsteps left at that institution by the late [Anne Buttimer](#) (1938-2017). However, organising a symposium in tribute to her work at her Irish academic home does provide a solid feel to start understanding Buttimer's irreplaceable contribution to the collective understanding of our profession's past. The symposium, organised earlier this summer (10-12 July), allowed organizers Federico Ferretti and Arlene Crampsie to present us with a first glimpse of Anne Buttimer's archive, which will become accessible to the community in due course. This is a small comfort for those who would like to lean from Anne's empathic and humanist approach to the history of Geography.

The Dublin seminar was a delight for those interested in the diversity of geographical traditions and how interactions between these traditions shape the past, present and possible futures of the geographical discipline. I could count only a handful of native English speakers under the forty or so delegates and that gave the conference a genuine sense of *lingua franca*, committed to sharing of ideas and viewpoints and communicating them across linguistic boundaries, particularly with the French and Brazilian traditions of geographical scholarship. Sessions were tightly packed on two days covering all aspects of the history of the discipline from the ancient to the present.

It was lovely to see so much interesting work examining the colonial imprint of geographical thinking in different contexts and to see the voices included from the people on the receiving end of that enterprise. Kudos to the organizers in choosing to make this a "no frills but therefore entirely free for all interested" event. It sure felt much more accessible than comparable events I have attended in the past.

It would do no justice to run through every session presented at the conference in this space (although you can find an overview on the [Commission's website](#)). However, what is worth mentioning is the impact and discussion around David Livingstone's keynote, "The climate of historical explanation", which revisited the checkered history around climate science, environmental determinism and its contemporary reappearance. Discussions around the keynote, both formally and informally, brought the issue centre stage whether our historiography of environmental determinism is up to the task of guiding us in the renewed need to couple physical and human geographical thinking in the challenges of the current climate crisis. Is the categorical dismissal within large swathes of human geography of much of the determinist era not hampering fruitful debate with some of the most pressing issues of our time (and with physical geographers who often tend to think more strongly in macro-geographical terms)? This is probably a controversial debate that could set off a heated meeting all by itself, but the fascinating thing is how much this debate easily springs from examining the history of our own discipline across contexts. A debate on which likely the last words have not yet been spoken.

I like to end this brief conference report with the strong encouragement for HPGRG members to keep track of what the IGU commission on the History of Geography is organising and convening. Formed in 1968, the Commission's goal has always been to foster meaningful communication, interaction and cross-fertilisation in thinking about the history of geography, a subdiscipline that even more than others has a tendency to focus on the national geographic traditions. Since 1977, the Commission has published the "[Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies](#)" periodical of which the 38<sup>th</sup> volume is published this year, dedicated to seminal female geographers (you can have a browse of the series in the RGS-IBG library at the conference). One of the ambitions of the HPGRG is a more close collaboration and communication between the sister organizations in other countries and the IGU commission as an overarching platform. This symposium was a great opportunity to build and strengthen those linkages.

If you want to keep track of the activities of the IGU Commission on the history of geography, make sure to bookmark their website. You can contact the secretary of the commission (also the secretary of the HPGRG), [Federico Ferretti](#), if you would like to be on the Commission's mailing list.



Michiel van Meeteren  
HPGRG communications officer

## 4. Call for content

There is no way in which the organizing committee of the HPGRG can be aware of all the exciting events, publications, prizes and grants that are relevant to our members, let alone that we can write down all the news in the newsletter by ourselves. So if you have something to share with the wider HPGRG community, have an event you would like to draw attention to, or want to write a short report on an attended event, there is publication space in the HPGRG newsletter! Just contact the communications officer, Michiel van Meeteren ([m.van-meeteren@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:m.van-meeteren@lboro.ac.uk)) with your text or idea. If we get flooded with good stuff, we'll just issue more newsletters!

## 4. A quick guide to all things HPGRG at the 2019 RGS-IBG

Below we present a chronologically-ordered table of all the HPGRG sponsored sessions at this year's RGS-IBG. It shows the date and time, title, organisers, and location. Click on the title to be linked to more information on the RGS-IBG programme website.

WED Aug 28,	
<b>09:00-10:40</b>	<a href="#"><b><u>A Non-Representational Historical Geography? Archives, Affects and Atmospheres (1)</u></b></a>
Sherfield/SALC Building, Room 5	Organised by: Stephen Legg & Ivan Marković (University of Nottingham)
<b>11:10-12:50</b>	<a href="#"><b><u>A Non-Representational Historical Geography? Archives, Affects and Atmospheres (2)</u></b></a>
Sherfield/SALC Building, Room 5	Organised by: Stephen Legg & Ivan Marković (University of Nottingham)
<b>16:50-18:30</b>	<a href="#"><b><u>Human Geography Today: Then and Now</u></b></a>
RGS-IBG Ondaatje Theatre	Organised by: Phil Emmerson (Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), UK) & Catherine Oliver (University of Birmingham, UK)
<b>18:45-20:00</b>	<a href="#"><b><u>Book Launch: Non-Representational Theory and the Creative Arts, edited by Candice P. Boyd and Christian Edwardes</u></b></a>
RGS-IBG Lowther Room	Organised by: Candice Boyd (The University of Melbourne, Australia) & Christian Edwardes (Arts University Bournemouth, UK)
THU Aug 28,	
<b>14:40-16:20</b>	<a href="#"><b><u>Through Troubled Times: Geography &amp; Geographers (1979) and Political Geography: World-Economy, Nation-State, and Locality (1985)</u></b></a>
Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164	Organised by: Colin Flint (Utah State University), Michiel van Meeteren (Loughborough University) & James Sidaway (National University of Singapore)

THU Aug 28,	
<b>14:40-16:20</b>	<b><u><a href="#">HPGRG Keynote. Arild Holt-Jensen: 60 Years in Geography; The disciplinary memory of a Norwegian Geographer</a></u></b>
Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164	Organised by: Michiel van Meeteren and Heike Jöns (Loughborough University)
FRI Aug 30,	
<b>11:10-12:50</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Author meets readers: David Simon's Holocaust Escapees and Global Development: Hidden Histories</a></u></b>
RGS-IBG Education Centre	Organised by: Miles Kenney-Lazar, Felix Mallin & James Sidaway (National University of Singapore)
FRI Aug 30,	
<b>11:10-12:50</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Re-presenting Economic Geography (1)</a></u></b>
Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164	Organised by: Nicholas Phelps (University of Melbourne), Michiel van Meeteren (Loughborough University & Jana Kleibert (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space / Humboldt University of Berlin,))
<b>13:10-14:25</b>	<b><u><a href="#">History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG) AGM</a></u></b>
RGS-IBG Lowther Room	All welcome to our annual research group meeting
<b>14:40-16:20</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Starting with The End(s) (1)</a></u></b>
Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 120.	Organised by Ruth Raynor & Nick Rush-Cooper (Newcastle University)
<b>16:50-18:30</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Starting with The End(s) (2)</a></u></b>
Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 120.	Organised by Ruth Raynor & Nick Rush-Cooper (Newcastle University)
<b>16:50-18:30</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Re-presenting Economic Geography (3)</a></u></b>
Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164	Organised by: Nicholas Phelps (University of Melbourne), Michiel van Meeteren (Loughborough University & Jana Kleibert (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space / Humboldt University of Berlin,))