

REFLECTIONS I: BIOGRAPHIES

GEOGRAPHERS-IN-THE-MAKING GOING 'INTO THE FIELD': TRAVELS, NETWORKS AND QUESTIONS OF SCALE IN THE UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY DISSERTATION

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Disciplinary histories of geography often emphasise the works of established academic geographers. Their work takes place in grand 'scholarly' spaces (journals, conferences). Students who complete geography undergraduate degree studies vastly outnumber professional academic geographers. Yet, the student experience, and students' contribution to disciplinary knowledge production, is given scant regard in conventional historiographies of geography. The School of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow, holds a collection of undergraduate dissertations (dating from 1950s–present). Using these archival sources, I will explore changes in the practicalities and travels of geography students conducting their first independent research project for their undergraduate dissertation: where did geography students travel? What role do supervisors, family members, friends and peer have in the dissertation studies? How do students position themselves in 'the geographical field'? The undergraduate geography dissertation can be seen as a shared experience of becoming-a-geographer, offering insights in disciplinary changes, traditions and relationships. This paper explores one of the perspectives that can be taken in studying the history and philosophy of geography: the student experience.

40 Years of HPGRG – Looking back and looking forward

A one-day symposium of the History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG) of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG), Tuesday, 7 September 2021 on Microsoft Teams