



The Department of Geography  
Annual Report



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

2015-2016

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Crete Fieldtrip 2015



Main Geography building



**Bill Adams, Head of Department**

This academic year has seen a great deal of change in the Department in terms of academic staff. The academic year began with a dinner in Queens' College to mark the retirement of four long-standing colleagues: Tim Bayliss-Smith, Hans Graf, Ron Martin and Bob Haining. It ended with a toast at the last Staff Meeting of the year to two more retirees, Susan Owens and Piers Vitebsky, as well as Lizzie Richardson who has gone from a temporary position to a Research Fellowship at Durham. Such a changing of the guard is unprecedented: losing five people who have been on the academic staff since the 1970s or 1980s means a huge potential loss of cultural memory and expertise. Luckily, we have reason to hope they will stay close in their retirement to remain part of our community.

Universities renew themselves like ecosystems and we have been fortunate to welcome the first of what hopefully will be a series of new faces. In October Matthew Gandy joined us from UCL to a Chair in Cultural and Historical Geography, and Dr Alice Evans on a two-year lectureship in Human Geography from LSE. As the new academic year began we welcomed Christine Lane (previously at Manchester) to the 1993 Chair in Geography.

So, a year of coming and going, but 2015-16 has also been a year of achievements. Alex Jeffrey was promoted to a Readership in Human Geography, and Matthew Gandy was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Susan Owens was awarded an Honorary Degree by the University of East Anglia and Ron Martin the RGS Victoria Medal.

Research in the Department is buoyant; teaching is as challenging and central to Departmental life as ever. Our sub-Department, the Scott Polar Research Institute, goes from strength to strength, this year celebrating the centenary of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (*the Endurance Expedition*).

The Department has also seen its investment in biodiversity conservation research over the last decade bear fruit, with the opening of the refurbished David Attenborough Building on the New Museums Site, and the continuing secondment

of Bhaskar Vira as Director of the nascent Cambridge Conservation Research Institute, one of the University's four new Interdisciplinary Research Centres. There are plans for the Department to move to a new building on the New Museums Site nearby, although this is still five years at least away.

Perhaps once universities were places of tranquil calm and sober reflection. No more: changes from without and within come thick and fast, powered by the incessant chatter of emails and the relentless connectivity of the internet. It is not that the fundamental tasks have changed: teaching and research are in many ways as they have always been, wonderful, absorbing and exhausting by turns. But the intensity continues to rise: no sooner has 'the REF' (Research Excellence Framework 2014) completed than we are thinking about the next (due 2021), and from the same stable Teaching Excellence Framework (uninspiringly named 'the TEF') is slowly emerging.

Clearly there is plenty of change to come.



Sir William Hardy building



At the end of the 2015-16 academic year, the Department had a total of 40 University Teaching Officers, including 11 Professors and five Readers and ten Senior Lecturers.

## Arrivals

The Department welcomed one new Professor and Lecturer.

**Professor Matthew Gandy** was appointed in October 2015 as Professor of Cultural and Historical Geography having previously been a Professor at UCL. Matthew is a cultural, urban and environmental geographer with particular interests in landscape, infrastructure and more recently biodiversity. The historical scope of his work extends from the middle decades of the nineteenth century to the recent past, and his research ranges from aspects of environmental history, including epidemiology, to contemporary intersections between nature and culture including the visual arts.

**Dr Alice Evans** was appointed in October 2015 as a fixed-term University Lecturer in Human Geography, having previously been a Fellow in Human Geography at LSE. Alice researches inequality and social change.

Amongst support staff, the Department welcomed **Louise Kay** as ERC Project Coordinator working with Professor Matthew Gandy.

## Departures

The Department saw the departure of three academic staff in 2015-16.

**Professor Susan Owens** retired in September 2016, having arrived at the Department as a University Assistant Lecturer and Fellow of Newnham College in 1981 from a Research Fellowship at the University of Nottingham. She was promoted to University Lecturer in 1986, then Reader in 2000 and Professor of Environment and Policy in 2004, also serving as Head of Department from 2010 to 2013. Susan has researched and published widely in the field of environmental governance, worked extensively on interpretations of sustainable development in theory and practice, and theorised connections between environmental planning conflicts (especially those concerned with contentious technologies and infrastructure) and developments in wider domains of public policy. She was appointed an OBE in 1998 for services to sustainable development and was a recipient of the Royal Geographical Society's 'Back' Award in 2000 for research making an outstanding contribution to policy. For the academic year 2008-09 Susan was the King Carl XVI Gustaf Professor of Environmental Science, hosted by Stockholm University's Resilience Centre and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), and she was Honorary Professor at the University of Copenhagen 2008-13. Susan was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2011 and holds Honorary Doctorates from KTH, Stockholm (2012) and the University of East Anglia (2015).

**Dr Piers Vitebsky** retired in September 2016, having been an Assistant Director of Research based at the Scott Polar Research Institute since 1986. He was educated at the Universities of Cambridge (Classics

with Modern and Medieval Languages, 1971), Oxford (Diploma in Social Anthropology, 1972), Delhi (affiliated student, 1977-79) and London (PhD, SOAS, 1982). Piers studied ancient languages before becoming a social anthropologist specialising in the religion, psychology, poetics and ecology of small-scale societies, and the relations of these societies to the centralised state. He has carried out long-term fieldwork among shamans and shifting cultivators in tribal India since 1975, and among nomadic reindeer herders in the Siberian Arctic since 1988. In the Russian Arctic, he was the first Westerner since the Revolution to live long-term with an indigenous community. Piers initiated and convened the Magic Circle interdisciplinary seminar on religion, ritual and symbolism.

Dr Lizzie Richardson, was an undergraduate at the Department from 2006 to 2009 before studying for an MA and PhD at Durham University, 2009-2014. She returned to Cambridge as fixed-term Lecturer in Human

Geography in 2014, working on research exploring the intersections between urban culture and economy through a focus on the conceptualisations and practices of work. Lizzie moved back to Durham University in September as a Research Fellow in the Department of Geography.

Of the support staff, **Rosemary Goldsmith** left the position of Data Entry Clerk with CAMPOP, **Alun Martin** retired as Photographic Librarian for CUCAP, **Samantha Smith** left her position as Laboratory and Field Equipment Services Technician to take up a new post in Bristol, and **Silus Tull** left the position of Senior Cartographic Technician.

### Promotions, Honours and Prizes

Dr Alex Jeffrey was promoted to Reader from 1 October 2015.

Professor Ash Amin was appointed Foreign Secretary and Vice-President of the British Academy.

Professor Julian Dowdeswell was awarded an honorary degree (*ScD*) by the University of Cambridge, an honorary Fellowship by Aberystwyth University and Honorary Membership of the American Polar Society.

Professor Matthew Gandy was elected Fellow of the British Academy and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor Phil Gibbard was appointed Secretary General of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (*ICS*).

Professor Hans Graf was awarded the Reinhard Suehring Medal by the German Meteorological Society, along with his colleague Hans von Storch, in recognition of their services to the Society, especially in founding the German Climate Conference 25 years ago.

Professor Ron Martin was awarded the Victoria Medal for 2016 by the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers 'for outstanding contributions to the field of economic geography, especially with respect to advances in regional economic development theory'.

Dr Emma Mawdsley was awarded a 2016 Pilkington Teaching Prize. The prize is awarded annually to academic staff for their outstanding quality and approach to their teaching.

Professor Susan Owens was awarded an honorary degree (*ScD h.c.*) by the University of East Anglia in recognition of her contributions to environmental social sciences.

Mr Chris Rolfe, Laboratory & Field Equipment Services Manager, successfully defended his PhD thesis 'Pleistocene Sediments of the North Devon Coast'.

Ms Samantha Smith, Laboratory & Field Equipment Services Technician, successfully completed an MSc in Environmental Science with Merit.

Two of the Department's PhD students won Future Cities Prizes: **Charlie Barlow**, who works with Professor Susan Smith on 'The Entitlements of Citizenship in Mixed-Income Neighbourhoods in the United States' and **Simon Price**, who works with Professor Phil Gibbard on 'The Geology and Geotechnical Properties of Quaternary Sediments in the English South Midlands'. The Prize, an award of £2,000, is funded through a generous gift from Capital and Counties and is hosted by the Department of Land Economy, in collaboration with the Cambridge Forum for Sustainability and the Environment.





Photo: Professor Clive Oppenheimer



Morocco Fieldtrip 2015

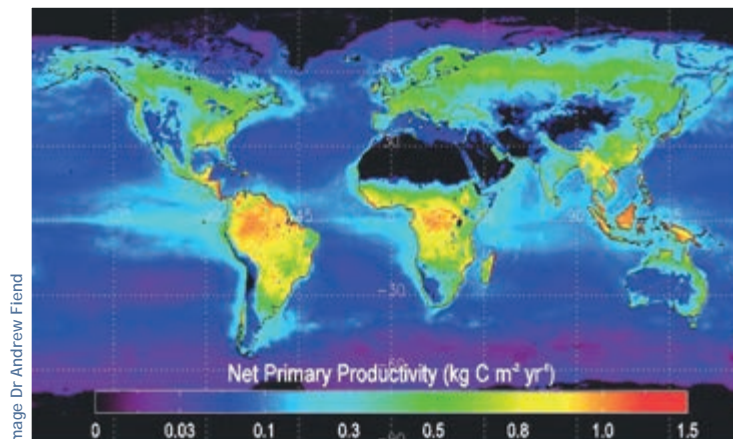


Image Dr Andrew Flind



Morocco Fieldtrip 2015



**Professor Ash Amin, Director of Research**

We began the academic year with the very welcome news that the Department was ranked second nationally in Geography in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF)

- the exercise conducted every five years to assess the quality of research in all disciplines. The Department's research environment, publications, and societal impact were judged to be 'world leading'. In the course of the year, we endeavoured to maintain the momentum through work in our five thematic research groups and through our leadership of cross-University ventures such as the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute (UCCRI) and Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure (CAMPOP, shared with History).

The thematic groups (*Natures, Cultures, Knowledges; Societies, Markets, States; Population, Health and Histories (renamed Cambridge Cultural and Historical Group); Environmental Systems and Processes; and Glacial and Quaternary Science*) encapsulate the Department's distinctive research interests. They encourage innovation and collaboration through horizon scanning, reading groups, workshops and a visiting speaker programme. A highlight was the publication of *Releasing the Commons*, edited by Professor Ash Amin and Dr Philip Howell (Routledge, 2015), the fruit of a cross-group international symposium on the 'Shrinking Commons' hosted by the Department in September 2014.

The year was also a busy one for our cross-University ventures. For staff of the SPRI, fieldwork took place in both polar regions, ranging from the investigation of water-filled crevasses and their implications for breakup of the Ross Ice Shelf, Antarctica (Willis), to borehole drilling through a fast-flowing outlet glacier of the Greenland Ice Sheet (Christoffersen) and the study of ice-sheet decay in the Barents Sea, east of Svalbard, using marine-geophysical methods (Dowdeswell). Each of these studies forms part of the Institute's work on the links between ice and environmental change, and the mechanisms of ice-sheet mass loss that are a major driver of global sea-level rise. UCCRI moved into its new collaborative space in the David Attenborough Building, on the New Museums Site, in December 2015. It has been recognised as a University Interdisciplinary Research Centre from the academic year 2016-17, with participation of academic staff, postdocs and graduate students across all six Schools. Geography's staff include Adams, Leader-Williams, Möller, Sandbrook, Spencer and Vira (Director). CAMPOP continues to operate successfully across both Geography and History, with weekly seminars in both Departments. The Group's traditional foci of historical demography and occupational structure continued to be the main areas of research in the Department of Geography, where major projects investigate nineteenth century entrepreneurship (Bennett), mortality from 1600 to the mid-twentieth century (Smith) and fertility in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Reid).



## Notable Outputs/Books Published

In the reporting period 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016, members of the Department published seven books, 15 chapters in books, 94 articles in top international journals, and a number of conference proceedings and internet publications. Books, in addition to *Releasing the Commons*, include:

Gandy M (2016) *Moth* London: Reaktion Books  
 Ehlers J, Hughes P and P Gibbard (2015) *The Ice Age* Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell  
 Lancione M (ed.) (2016) *Rethinking Life at the Margins: The Assemblage of Contexts, Subjects, and Politics* London: Routledge  
 Radcliffe S (2015) *Dilemmas of Difference: Indigenous Women and the Limits of Postcolonial Development Policy* Durham NC: Duke University Press  
 Thomas D, Dunkerley D, Foody G, Goudie A, Meadows M, Montgomery D, Nicholson S and T Spencer (2016) *The Dictionary of Physical Geography (4th edition)* Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell  
 Vira B, Wildburger C and Mansourian S (2015) *Forests and Food: Addressing Hunger and Nutrition Across Sustainable Landscapes* Cambridge: Open Book Publishers

Other books published earlier in 2015 include:

Howell P (2015) *At Home and Astray: The Domestic Dog in Victorian Britain* Charlottesville VA: University of Virginia Press  
 Gandy M (2015) *Nature, sexualité, et hétérotopie* Paris: Eterotopia  
 Lemanski C and C Marx (eds.) (2015) *The City in Urban Poverty* London: Palgrave-Macmillan  
 Owens S (2015) *Knowledge, Policy, and Expertise: The UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution 1970-2011* Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
 Vira B, Wildburger C and Mansourian S (eds.) (2015) *Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security And Nutrition: A Global Assessment Report* Vienna International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

International recognition and public engagement are two important measures of research excellence in the Department. The list for 2015-16 is long, but some highlights include:

In September, Professor Julian Dowdeswell was part of a three-person delegation led by the Minister for the Universities at a White House Ministerial Meeting on the 'Future of the Arctic', Washington DC. Julian also gave the annual invited William Smith Lecture at the Geological Society of London in June, and appeared on BBC's 'Antiques Roadshow Detectives', talking about artefacts from the heroic era of British Antarctic exploration.

In March, Dr Iris Möller and colleagues at the Cambridge Coastal Research Unit presented a range of hands-on activities in the Department as part of the 2016 Cambridge Science Festival. 'Shifting Sands', 'Moving Muds' and 'Water, Water, Everywhere' were enjoyed by over 300 visitors of all ages (that is around one per minute on average over the five hours of the event).



The Department hosted photographer Toby Smith (<http://www.tobysmith.com/>) as Leverhulme Trust funded Artist in Residence at UCCRI.

Toby was the featured artist at the inauguration of the University Festival of Ideas in October 2015, and curated a number of events during his residency (<http://www.tobysmith.com/project/beyond-images/>; <http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/from-the-mayans-to-the-moors-a-new-film-series-shows-biodiversity-conservation-in-a-new-light>).



## Key Grants Awarded

(see also Annexe 2)

The year was also an excellent year for research grants. Seventeen awards of varying size and source were made to the Department, totalling £4.5m - a sharp rise on the previous three years (£1.9m in 2012-13, £3.2m in 2013-14, and 2.8m in 2014-15).

This increase was primarily due to our success in securing two large grants from the European Research Council, the first by Dr Poul Christofferson for a five-year research project on the Greenland Ice Sheet (£1.27m), and the second by Professor Matthew Gandy for a four-year project on Rethinking Urban Nature (1.67m). We were also fortunate to secure three medium-sized grants from the Natural Environment Research Council for research on: lava lakes (Professor Clive Oppenheimer), the interaction between physical and biological processes on coasts (Dr Iris Möller and Dr Tom Spencer), and on the convective cloud field (Dr Michael Herzog).

During the year work continued on large social science grants, focusing on: the historical drivers of entrepreneurship and small businesses (Emeritus Professor Bob Bennett), the epidemiological consequences of urbanization, 1600-1945 (Emeritus Professor Richard Smith), structural transformation and city economic evolutions (Professor Ron Martin), fertility decline in England and Wales, 1850-1911 (Dr Alice Reid), and the political economy of water security in the Western Himalayas (Dr Bhaskar Vira).



Lava Lake, (Prof Oppenheimer)



Greenland Ice Sheet, (Image, SOFTPEDIA)

## Postdoctoral Research Fellows



**Dr David Amblas**  
(Marie Slodowska Curie Fellow)  
April 2016-March 2018,  
*Seabed Imprint of Dense Shelf  
Water Cascading*



**Dr Sina Frank** (ESPA Fellowship  
Scheme) November 2014 to  
October 2016, *Ecosystem Services  
and Vulnerability in the Western  
Himalayas: An Integrated  
Participatory Modelling Approach  
Using Bayesian Networks*



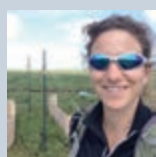
**Dr Antonio Abellan** (Marie  
Slodowska Curie Fellow) June  
2016 to May 2018, *Improve our  
Understanding of Rock Slope  
Failures Using Calving Events*



**Dr Michele Lancione**  
(Urban Studies Foundation Postdoc  
Research Fellowship) February 2014  
to August 2016,  
*Working, Eating, Sleeping. The  
Assemblage of Marginality in Three  
European Cities*



**Dr Elia Apostolopoulou**  
(Marie Slodowska Curie Fellow)  
April 2014 to August 2016,  
*Conservation and Ecosystem  
Services in the New Biodiversity  
Economy*



**Dr Ruth Reef**  
(Marie Slodowska Curie Fellow)  
January 2015 to December 2016,  
*Stemming the Rising Tide: The  
Protective Role of Saltmarshes*



### Distinguished International Guests, Research Visitors And Departmental Seminars

The Department welcomed two visitors as part of the Distinguished International Visitor Programme: **Professor Abdou Maliq Simone** (Max Plank Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity) in November 2015 and **Professor Tania Li** (University of Toronto) in February 2016. Both delivered stimulating and well-attended public lectures and Departmental Seminars, along with discussing their work with doctoral and postdoctoral colleagues. UCCRI hosted **Professor Paul Ferraro**, (Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Business and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University) as the Humanitas Visiting Professor in Sustainability Studies, 2015-16 (<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/people/profile/paul-ferraro>).

We invited five eminent scholars to give the 2015-16 Department Seminars:

**Professor Catherine Nash** (Queen Mary University of London) Interspecies Iceland: more-than-human geographies, genealogies and family histories  
**Dr Kevin Horsburgh** (National Oceanography Centre) Challenges for an Improved Understanding of Sea Level Extremes and Coastal Flood Mitigation  
**Professor Georgina Endfield** (University of Nottingham) "Wondrous Signs of Wondrous Times": Cultural histories of extreme weather events in the UK  
**Professor Giorgos Kallis** (SOAS) Limits Without Scarcity, or Why Malthus was Wrong  
**Professor Matthew Sparke** (University of Washington, Seattle) Enclaving Global Health? Investment in Life and the Uneven Geographies of Biological Citizenship

The Department welcomed 13 visiting academics from a wide range of backgrounds, research fields, and countries. Eight of these were long-term visitors staying in the Department for a year.



They were either supported by their institutions or self-funded, and one was supported by a Marie S. Curie Schrödinger Fellowship.

**Dr Ursula Allitt** (with Professor Phil Gibbard), The Meteorological Office, UK  
**Dr Julie Boreham** (with Dr Steve Boreham), Earthslides, UK  
**Dr Christopher Jeans** (with Professor Phil Gibbard), Cambridge Quaternary Palaeoenvironments Group, UK  
**Dr Karolina Leszczynska** (with Professor Phil Gibbard), Cambridge Quaternary Palaeoenvironments Group, Poland  
**Dr Pushkin Phartiyal** (with Dr Bhaskar Vira), Central Himalayan Environment Association, India  
**Dr Isabella Radhuber** (with Professor Sarah Radcliffe), University of Vienna, Austria  
**Dr Declan Redmond** (with Professor Susan Smith), University College Dublin, Ireland  
**Mrs Patricia Saunders** (with Professor Keith Richards), Independent Researcher, UK  
**Dr Mark Schuerch**, (with Dr Tom Spencer), Kiel University, Germany  
**Professor Kevin Schurer** (with Dr Alice Reid), University of Leicester, UK  
**Dr Krishna Shrestha** (with Dr Bhaskar Vira), University of New South Wales, Australia  
**Dr Vitchko Tsanev** (with Professor Clive Oppenheimer), Independent Researcher, UK  
**Dr Philip Underwood** (with Dr Tom Spencer), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, UK



Geography Department Open Day Exhibition



**Dr Harriet Allen, Director of Undergraduate Studies**

In October 2015, 298 undergraduates started the academic year in all three parts of the Geographical Tripos. As in other universities, Geography is particularly popular

with women who comprise approximately 62% of our students, a proportion that matches those applying to read Geography at Cambridge. Approximately 70% of our students are educated in the UK's state sector, and around 10% are international students, either from other EU countries or further afield.

There have been no changes to the structure of the Tripos. The first year (*Part IA*) is a foundation year. From the second year (*Part IB*) students are able to specialise if they wish. However, more than 50% of second year students retain a balance in their paper choices between human and physical geography. Year three (*Part II*) papers offered in 2015-16 were:

The Geographies of Global Urbanism  
Knowledge, Policy and Expertise  
Political Ecology of the Global South  
Political Geography of Postcolonialism  
Changing Cultures of Risk  
Geographies of Discipline and Social Regulation in the Nineteenth Century  
Historical Demography  
The Glacial and Quaternary Record  
Glaciology  
Volcanology  
Sedimentary Coastal Systems  
Biogeography

Fieldwork remains an important part of teaching with half- or full-day trips taking place in both human and physical papers across all three years. For many students, a highlight of their degree is the second year residential fieldtrip. Destinations included **Arolla** (Switzerland) led by Dr Ian Willis and Dr Neil Arnold, **Berlin** led by Dr Alex Jeffrey and Dr Charlotte Lemanski, **Dublin** led by Dr Philip Howell and Dr David Beckingham, **Mallorca** led by Prof. Sarah Radcliffe, Dr Lizzie Richardson and Dr Steve Boreham, and **Morocco** led by

Dr Emma Mawdsley and Dr Jessica Hope. For their Part II dissertations our students remain ambitious in the scope of their geographical topics as well as destinations for their research. Twenty-two students were awarded the Department's William Vaughan Lewis Prizes for first class dissertations. Dissertations by 18 students were submitted for national prizes, usually those awarded by the research groups of the Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers. The Department continues to fund some dissertation expenses via the David Richards Award and the Dissertation Reimbursement Scheme.

In examination performance in each part of the Tripos, the percentage of first class students was higher than in previous years. We changed our marking scheme to bring the profile of marks more into line with other Triposes in the University as well as other Departments of Geography nationally. In the Part II examinations, 35% of students were awarded a first class and a further 54% were awarded upper seconds. The comparable figures for Part IB were 30% and 66%, and for Part IA 25% and 62%.

As ever we participated actively in outreach work throughout the year, with several staff attending the large student recruiting Oxbridge Conferences held nationally in the spring. At the July Open Days we were very busy offering taster and information lectures as well as opportunities to meet staff. The Sutton Trust Summer School ran in August 2016 with 20 sixth-formers. This scheme offers an opportunity to young people with no background in higher education to try university life. Some of our graduate students are tireless supporters of this scheme, including one who attended a Sutton Trust course at Cambridge when he was at school and will be starting a PhD in October 2016. Some of our best ambassadors for Geography are the undergraduates themselves, who enrol as CAMbassadors with the University's Admissions Office. An enthusiastic group also undertake a training programme with the Royal Geographical Society to go into schools to encourage pupils to take Geography at GCSE, as a sixth-form subject or at university. We very much welcome our involvement with this RGS initiative.



Crete 2015 Fieldtrip



Arolla 2015 Fieldtrip





Cambridge skyline Castle Mound  
commons.wikimedia.org

Cambridge University Geography Society had a busy year. They organised a range of interesting talks from, amongst others: **Cathy Dean** (Director of Save the Rhino International), **Justin Hall-Tipping** (CEO of Nanoholdings LLC) and **Matthew Price** (Radio 4 Chief Correspondent), as well as well-known geographers **Iain Stewart**, **Klaus Dodds** and **Doreen Massey**. They launched a new biannual magazine, *Compass*, with articles from students, Department staff, researchers and alumni. Social events included a Christmas Dinner and a Great British Garden Party at the end of the year.

Geography is a sought-after degree subject amongst employers who value geographers for their wide-ranging analytical and practical skills. Geography at Cambridge was ranked either first or second in national league tables, such as *The Guardian* and [thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk). Our aim is to continue to attract high quality applicants and offer them an outstanding degree, which will take them to exciting places and interesting careers, whether as future researchers, or in the private and public employments sectors.

## The Geographical Tripos

In the summer of 2016, 103 students took Part IA exams, 90 took Part IB and 96 took Part II Geography.

### Starred firsts

**Part IA:** Megan Broughton (*Churchill*), Chris Chung (*St John's*), Isabella Doe (*St John's*), Julia Ganis (*Emmanuel*), Paul Greenhalgh (*Jesus*), Emily Harbach (*Trinity Hall*), Michalis Inglessis (*Girton*), Charlotte Milbank (*Girton*), Catriona Parpworth (*Murray Edwards*), Daniel Ryan (*Christ's*), James Stevens (*St Catherine's*), Dominic Weir (*Girton*).

**Part IB:** Tessa Callender (*Fitzwilliam*), Clementine Makower (*St John's*), Rachel Mumford (*Downing*), Ella Sivan (*Emmanuel*), Charlie Whitehead (*Emmanuel*).

**Part II:** Holly Carter (*Robinson*), Bethany Crickmay (*Queens'*), Nathaniel Darling (*St Catherine's*), Helena Jones (*St John's*), James King (*Homerton*), Alex McCleery (*Emmanuel*), Anna Nicholl (*Jesus*), Nadia Ogilvie (*Christ's*), James Pollard (*Jesus*), Sarah Tan (*Fitzwilliam*), Joe Young (*Downing*).

## Prizes

**The Andrew Hall Prize** for the best candidate at Part IA, awarded to **Daniel Ryan** (*Christ's*).

**The Philip Lake Prize** for the best candidate at Part IB, awarded to **Tessa Callender** (*Fitzwilliam*).

**The George Aldridge Prize** for the best performance in human geography, awarded to **Joe Young** (*Downing*).

**The Philip Lake Prize** for the best performance in physical geography, awarded to **Anna Nichol** (*Jesus*).

**William Vaughan Lewis Dissertation Prizes**, awarded to **Robert Beresford** (*Sidney Sussex*), **Medha Bhasin** (*Downing*), **Edward Bryan** (*Downing*), **Holly Carter** (*Robinson*), **Cecily Church** (*St Catherine's*), **Anna Cooke** (*Sidney Sussex*), **Rosie Coombe** (*Newnham*), **Antoinette Duplay** (*Sidney Sussex*), **Eleanor Flaherty** (*Selwyn*), **Ulla Heede** (*St Edmund's*), **Pan Hu** (*Fitzwilliam*), **William Marks** (*Fitzwilliam*), **Rachel Marshall** (*St Catherine's*), **Danielle Meredith** (*King's*), **Anna Nicholl** (*Jesus*), **Nadia Ogilvie** (*Christ's*), **Lucy Pickworth** (*Newnham*), **Katie Scott** (*Christ's*), **Olivia Shears** (*Jesus*), **Buki Sule** (*Fitzwilliam*), **Andre Woolgar** (*Girton*), **Joe Young** (*Downing*).

## External Dissertation prizes

**Medha Bhasin** (*Downing*), *Multiculturalism in Singapore State Policy vs Everyday Practice*: dissertation was highly commended by the Political Geography Research Group of the RGS-IBG.

**Nadia Ogilvie** (*Christ's*), *Governing through fat: Obesity and Neoliberal Governmentality*: dissertation was highly commended by the Geography of Health and Wellbeing Research Group of the RGS-IBG.

**Lucy Pickworth** (*Newnham*) was shortlisted for the RGS-IBG Race, Culture & Equality Working Group dissertation prize for her dissertation *Shared Parental Leave: Closing gender gaps in professional services firms in England*.



Students compare notes after a day in the field



## First Class Dissertations

Enchanted Landscapes: the impact of elves on planning in reykjavik

Multiculturalism in Singapore: state policy vs everyday practice

Protests Taking Place?: Tamar Park's symbolic Geography following the 'Umbrella Revolution' protests

Exploring Bamboo Handicraft Livelihoods as a Rural Development Approach in Uttarakhand, India

Street Vendors in London: perceptions on their occupation and the circumstances under which they vary

Gendered Experiences of Water Management in the Cordillera Blanca, Peru

Island Identities: a comparative study in relation to external agency in the Solomon Islands

New Actors, Old Hurdles? Insights into BRAC Tanzania's South-South Development Efforts

Welfare Provision, Community and Belonging: an ethnography of one Hackney church

Ego Hugo: narratives of Hugo's exile in Guernsey

Female Migrants in London: cooking as economic and social empowerment

Investigating Differentiated Ecosystem Climate Feedback Mechanisms in a Greening Arctic: Southwest Greenland as a case study

A Landscape of Nostalgia Tourism in Xiaoxi Village, China

Public Life on Private Land at More London

Everyday Geographies of Lipari Islanders: performative of affectual spaces?

Inventing Pride? The Performative Construction of Heterosexual Identity in Brighton, UK

Redrawing Graffiti: legal spaces and the right to new your city

The Majority-Minority Complex: sinhala ethnonationalism and its effects on muslim communities on the east coast of Sri Lanka

A Study of the Spatial and Ethnographic Distribution of Microfinance Loans in Washington DC

Processes Affecting Submerged Terrace Morphology in the Tasmanid Seamount Chain

Governing Through Fat: the biopolitics of obesity and neoliberal governmentality

North Atlantic Cloud Cover (2003-2014) and its Response to the North Atlantic Oscillation

Shared Parental Leave: closing gender gaps in professional services firms in England?

Have Plant Communities on Lundy Island, Devon, Recovered after Clearance of Rhododendron Ponticum?

Tephra Deposition, Changing Vegetation Structure and Edge Effects in Iceland

A Perception Study of Informal Versus Formal Modes of Bus-oriented Transportation in Lagos, Nigeria

Economic Geography Using Mathematical and Qualitative Methods on Diversions of Cities in USA

Effects of Rwanda's Shift from French to English in the Educational System

Commons in the Community: perceptions and practices of transitioning commons in contemporary rural Romania





**Professor Sarah Radcliffe,  
Director of Graduate Studies**

The graduate community in the Department continued to be thriving, highly diverse and active, doing research across the world. Despite the fierce competition for studentships, we continue to be successful in matching students with funds. Our cosmopolitan group of students were found across all the Department's MPhil programmes, and starting PhDs. One innovation at the graduate school this year was the 3rd Year PhD Conference, held in April, when students presented a conference-style paper. At the end of the Conference, two former PhDs, Dr Rosalind Turner (now at the engineering consultancy Mott MacDonald) and Dr Jo Casebourne (now Programme Director at the Institute For Government), spoke about how doing a Geography PhD at Cambridge has shaped their subsequent careers outside academia. PhDs were awarded to students working on global climate, coasts, India, San Francisco, the Peruvian Amazon, United Arab Emirates, Ecuador and Taiwan, and on topics that span the research interests of the Department from physical through environmental to human and historical geography.

## Highlights of the Year

Number of PhDs starting at the Department: 17  
Number of MPhil students: 36

The masters programmes included the MPhil in Geographical Research, MPhil in Polar Studies, MPhil in Geography, and MPhil in Conservation Leadership (staff and students on this course moved in 2015-16, to the David Attenborough Building on the New Museums Site).

The Department's graduate community continues to be very international. This year's students included nationals from:

Afghanistan, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Columbia, Ecuador, Germany, Guyana, Iceland, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA and Venezuela.

Students were funded from a variety of sources including the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, the Cambridge Trust, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), European Research Council, the Nippon Nereus Fellowship, and the Wellcome Trust. MPhil Conservation Leadership students were funded additionally by Miriam Rothschild, Robert Sansom, and Flora and Fauna International scholarships.

**MPhil in Geographical Research:** Director, Dr Mia Gray. Four students in 2015-16, three of whom continued to a PhD programme, two of them here at Geography with ESRC funding.

**MPhil in Polar Studies:** Director, Dr Gareth Rees. Nine students in 2015-16. Two then continued to a PhD at the Department's Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) with NERC studentships, one to a PhD in the United States, and one to a UK university.

**MPhil in Conservation Leadership:** Director, Professor Nigel Leader-Williams. 22 students in 2015-16.

**MPhil in Geography:** one student, who continued to a PhD at the Department.

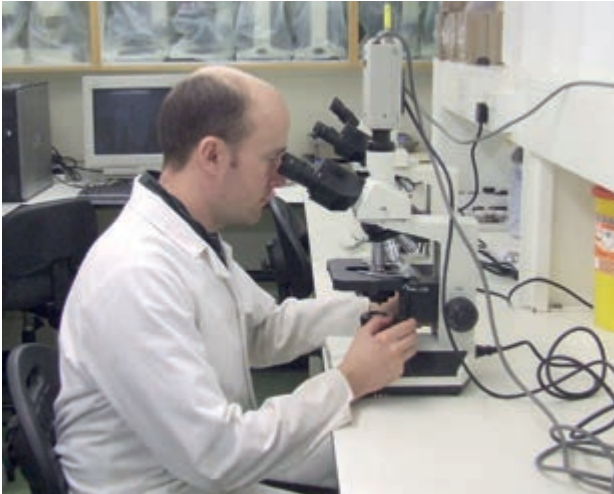
## The following students completed their PhDs in 2015-16:

Amanda Fitzgerald (St Catharine's College)	Approaching Europe: governmentality, subjectivity and the peopling of Europe through learning mobility.
Judith Schleicher (St John's College)	Assessing Conservation Impacts: conservation concessions in the Peruvian Amazon.
David Rose (Homerton College)	Nature in a Changing Climate: knowledge and policy for conservation, England 1990-2011.
Ave Lauren (King's College)	Global Citizens and Local Aliens: the rise of new migrant identities and landscapes in the San Francisco Bay Area.
Girija Godbole (Fitzwilliam College)	"Selling Land is the Beginning of the End for Us": understanding rural women's perspectives on the impact of increasing land sale in western Maharashtra, India.
Shino Shiode (Clare Hall)	Network-based Micro-scale Crime Hotspot Detection: developing and applying spatial, space-time and geo-surveillance methods for micro-scale crime analysis.
Charmaine Jelbert (St John's College)	Sex Trafficking and State Intervention: conflicts and contradictions during the 2012 London Olympics.
George Carothers (Gonville & Caius College)	Neoliberalism Under the Radar IT Parks as Exceptional Spaces in Kerala.
Zhiyu Cao (St John's College)	Convection and its Representation in Global Climate Models.
Regina Hansda (Newnham College)	Alternative Agriculture and Gendered Labour Implications: the case of system of rice intensification in Bihar, India.
Stefano Mazzilli (Fitzwilliam College)	Understanding Estuarine Hydrodynamics for Decision Making in Data-poor Coastal Environments.
Mona Hamade (Wolfson College)	Women and Emiratization in the UAE Workforce.
Sofia Zaragocin (Lucy Cavendish College)	Ethnic Boundary-making and the Gendered Politics of Belonging Along the Ecuador-Columbia Borderland.
Akanksha Marphatia (Darwin College)	Predictors and Consequences of Variability in Secondary Educational Attainment in Rural India: a life course approach.
Jan Laurens Geffert (Darwin College)	Improving Species Distribution Models for Commercially Important Marine Species on a Global Scale.
Chia-An Ku (Downing College)	An Integrated Framework for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Land-use Based Flood Management Strategy in Urban Areas - a Case Study in Taipei City, Taiwan.



Cork oak woodland in Portugal. Dr Harriet Allen





Dr Chris Rolfe

defence to extreme events.

Other highlights include:

Receiving the NUS Green Impact Gold Award for recognition of best practice in sustainable lab management; the building and development of an augmented reality display for the 2016 Cambridge Science Festival which attracted over 300 visitors on the day; an article published in *Geographical Magazine* and on their website on the investigation of the use of drones for digital mapping, 3D modelling, plant health and elevation models for use in teaching and research; obtaining funding for the development of an interactive landscape box, which allows participants (such as affected communities) to simulate the changes made to the landscape as a result of water flow and engage with the topic of flood risk management; 16 published papers having utilized the GSL and/or FES facilities.

### Laboratories

The Geography Science Laboratories (GSL) and Field Equipment Service (FES) provide a wide range of support and facilities for research and teaching within the Department and beyond.

In 2015-16 laboratory staff worked in the field supporting undergraduates by providing equipment and teaching expertise at UK sites and also as part of the Part IB Mallorca and Arolla fieldtrips, and increasingly a number of other Cambridge University Departments are turning to the GSL for laboratory analyses.

One of the highlights of the past year has been the installation of a large tilting flume, which can simulate flow regimes in rivers and coastal environments. This is being used by students, postdoctoral researchers and academic staff to investigate the bio-physical linkages in coastal wetlands and their role as a natural coastal



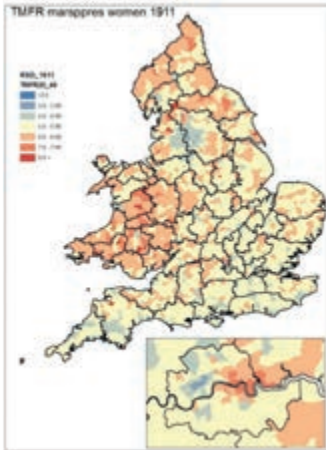
Field Equipment in action during Norfolk Coast trip. Dr Steve Boreham



Large tilting flume, which can simulate flow regimes in rivers and coastal environments (in Department Labs)

## Information Services

There has been much upgrading of computer equipment in the Department during 2015-16. All Top Lab machines were replaced, three new printer-copier-scanners were purchased with one being situated next to the lift in the main building which now allows for disabled access to printing, multiple improvements to server infrastructure have led to more robust services with expanded storage availability, and multiple services have been added to the website.



In Cartography, work got underway to catalogue the Department's collections, starting with the atlases and books. It is hoped that this will ultimately allow online browsing of all the maps held in the Department.

In the Library, the number of active users in 2015-16 was 628, with 13,373 loans (including renewals)

being made. These figures are on a par with previous years but of course do not reflect the number of people using the Library purely for reference purposes. Following a successful trial at the University Library and in response to wishes expressed by students, a small,

low-intensity silent study area was introduced where students can study in comfortable chairs and bring their own refreshments.

## Buildings and Safety

The main achievement for 2015-16 has been the awarding by the NUS of a Green Impact Bronze Award for recognition of good practice in the Department's commitment to reducing its environmental impact. A Green Team, made up of support and academic staff as well as undergraduate and graduate students, meets regularly to communicate environmental issues to staff and students and this year introduced new recycling and energy-saving schemes.

### Other highlights include:

The completion of a Room Assessment Survey which can be used to identify where funds and resources are best directed to improve the working environment; an overall upgrade of lighting in the Main Geography building; receiving outstanding feedback for the Health and Safety Review carried out in February by the University Safety Office; the successful Safety Induction and Field Safety training of around 170 new graduate and undergraduate students; the introduction of the Department's unparalleled (within the University) Online Risk Assessment System, through which 360 risk assessments and around 100 undergraduate Dissertation assessments were submitted for review.





## Professors

Bill Adams,  
*Moran Professor of Conservation and Development, Head of Department*

Ash Amin, CBE, FBA, AcSS,  
*1931 Chair in Geography*

Julian Dowdeswell,  
*Professor of Physical Geography, Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute*

Matthew Gandy, FBA, AcSS, *Professor of Cultural and Historical Geography*

Philip Gibbard, FGS,  
*Professor of Quaternary Palaeoenvironments*

Nigel Leader-Williams,  
*Director of Conservation Leadership*

Ron Martin, FBA, AcSS,  
*Professor of Economic Geography*

Clive Oppenheimer,  
*Professor of Volcanology*

Susan Owens, OBE, FBA, AcSS, *Professor of Environment and Policy*

Sarah Radcliffe,  
*Professor of Latin American Geography*

Susan Smith, FBA, AcSS,  
*Honorary Professor of Social and Economic Geography*

## Readers

Dr Andrew Friend,  
*Reader in Earth Systems Science*

Dr Alex Jeffrey,  
*Reader in Human Geography*

Dr Emma Mawdsley,  
*Reader in Human Geography*

Dr Tom Spencer,  
*Reader in Coastal Ecology and Geomorphology*

Dr Bhaskar Vira,  
*Reader in the Political Economy of Environment and Development*

## Senior Lecturers

Dr Harriet Allen

Dr Neil Arnold

Dr Michael Bravo

Dr Poul Christoffersen

Dr Mia Gray

Dr Philip Howell

Dr David Nally

Dr Gareth Rees

Dr Elizabeth Watson

Dr Ian Willis

## Lecturers

Dr Alice Evans

Dr Michael Herzog

Dr Jessica Hope

Dr Charlotte Lemanski

Dr Iris Möller

Dr Alice Reid

Dr Elizabeth Richardson

## Assistant Directors of Research

Dr Mike Bithell

Dr Piers Vitebsky

## College & Affiliated Lecturers

Dr David Beckingham

Dr Nick Cutler

Dr Francesca Moore

Dr Chris Sandbrook

Dr Ivan Scales

## Administration

Dr Adam Strange

Nadine Keating

## Head of Department's Office

Carolyn Bartley

## General Office

Jackie Boyce

Jan Parsons

## Accounts

Yasmiena Jones

Sally Knock

Elaine Giles

## Library

Robert Carter

Jane Hampshire

## Research Office

Danielle Feger

## Undergraduate Office

Oksana Gerasimova

## Graduate Office

Gae Matthews

## Computing

Martin Lucas-Smith

Shane Harvey

Dan Scott

## Cartography

Philip Stickler

Silus Tull

## Laboratory

Dr Steve Boreham

Dr Chris Rolfe

Samantha Smith

## Geomatics

Dr Gabriel Amable

## Workshop

Adam Copeland

Mark Theobald

## Reprographics Graphic Design & Digital Imaging

James Youlden

## Photographic Library

Alun Martin

## Other Staff

Sophie Arulanantham,  
*Administrator CAMPOP*

Rosemary Goldsmith,  
*Data Entry Clerk CAMPOP*

Lisa Harris,  
*Programme Administrator, Conservation Leadership*

Louise Kay,  
*ERC Project Coordinator*

Melanie Ryan,  
*Luc Hoffman Fellows Coordinator*

## Research Fellows

ESPA Fellow

Dr Sina Frank

## Leverhulme/Newton Trust Early Career Fellow

Dr Alison Banwell

## Marie Curie Research Fellow

Dr Antonio Abellan

Dr David Amblas

Dr Evangelia Apostolopoulou

Dr Ruth Reef

## Urban Studies Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr Michele Lancione

## Research Staff

Senior Research Associate

Dr Romola Davenport

Dr Robert Doubleday

Dr Shane McCorristine

## Research Associate

Dr Daniel Bannister

Dr Anna Barford

Dr Christine Batchelor

Dr Toby Benham

Dr Marion Bougamont

Dr Elizabeth Christie

Dr Evelyn Dowdeswell

Dr Emil Evenhuis

Dr Clement Feger

Dr Sina Frank

Dr Jonathan Green

Dr Hannaliis Jaadla

Dr Eszter Kovács

Dr Gill Newton

Dr James O'Neill

Dr Nial Peters

Dr Dragana Radicic

Dr David Rose

Dr Max Satchell

Dr Julien Savre

Dr Harry Smith

Dr Carry van Lieshout

## Research Assistant

Joseph Day

Anandhi Dhukaram

Ben Evans

Lauren Evans

Meaghan Kelly

## Annexe 2 External Research Grants (Oct 2015 to Sept 2016)

PI (Co-I)	Title	Duration	Sponsor	Funds awarded
Dr Poul Christoffersen (Dr A Abellen)	Improve our Understanding of Rock Slope Failures Using Calving Events (Rockslope)	2 years	MSCA IF	€183,455
Dr Poul Christoffersen	Resolving Subglacial Properties, Hydrological Networks and Dynamic Evolution of Ice Flow on the Greenland Ice Sheet	5 years	ERC CoG	€1,619,155
Dr Sam Halvorsen	Matching Funding for Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship	3 years	Isaac Newton Trust	£72,000
Dr Sam Halvorsen	Rethinking Territory from Below: Learning from theory and practice in Argentina	3 years	Leverhulme Trust	£110,000
Dr Michael Herzog	LES4CCFM: using LES to characterize and parameterize the convective cloud field	3 years	NERC	£339,330
Dr Iris Möller	Coast WEB: valuing the contribution which COASTal habitats make to human health and WellBeing, with a focus on the alleviation	3 years	NERC (Plymouth Marine Laboratory)	£25,730
Dr Iris Möller (Dr Tom Spencer)	Physical and Biological Dynamic Coastal Processes and their Role in Coastal Recovery (BLUE-coast)	4 years	NERC	£238,565
Prof Clive Oppenheimer	Nature and Impacts of Middle Pleistocene Volcanism in the Ethiopian Rift	3 years	Leverhulme Trust	£165,550
Prof Clive Oppenheimer	Understanding Lava Lakes Using a Novel Radar Altimeter	3 years	NERC	£505,688
Prof Sarah Radcliffe	Learning How to Leave No-one Behind: tackling intersectional inequalities through Ecuador's Buen Vivir public policy	2 years	British Academy	£10,000
Dr Tom Spencer	Impacts of El Nino Events on Ecosystem Services Provided by Colombian Mangroves	1 year	University of York (NERC)	£25,100
Dr Bhaskar Vira	A 'Rapid Context Diagnostic' on Organizational, Political and Institutional Factors Affecting Use of Ecosystem Services Research in Decisions and Impact on Outcomes	4 months	NERC Valuing Nature	£13,444

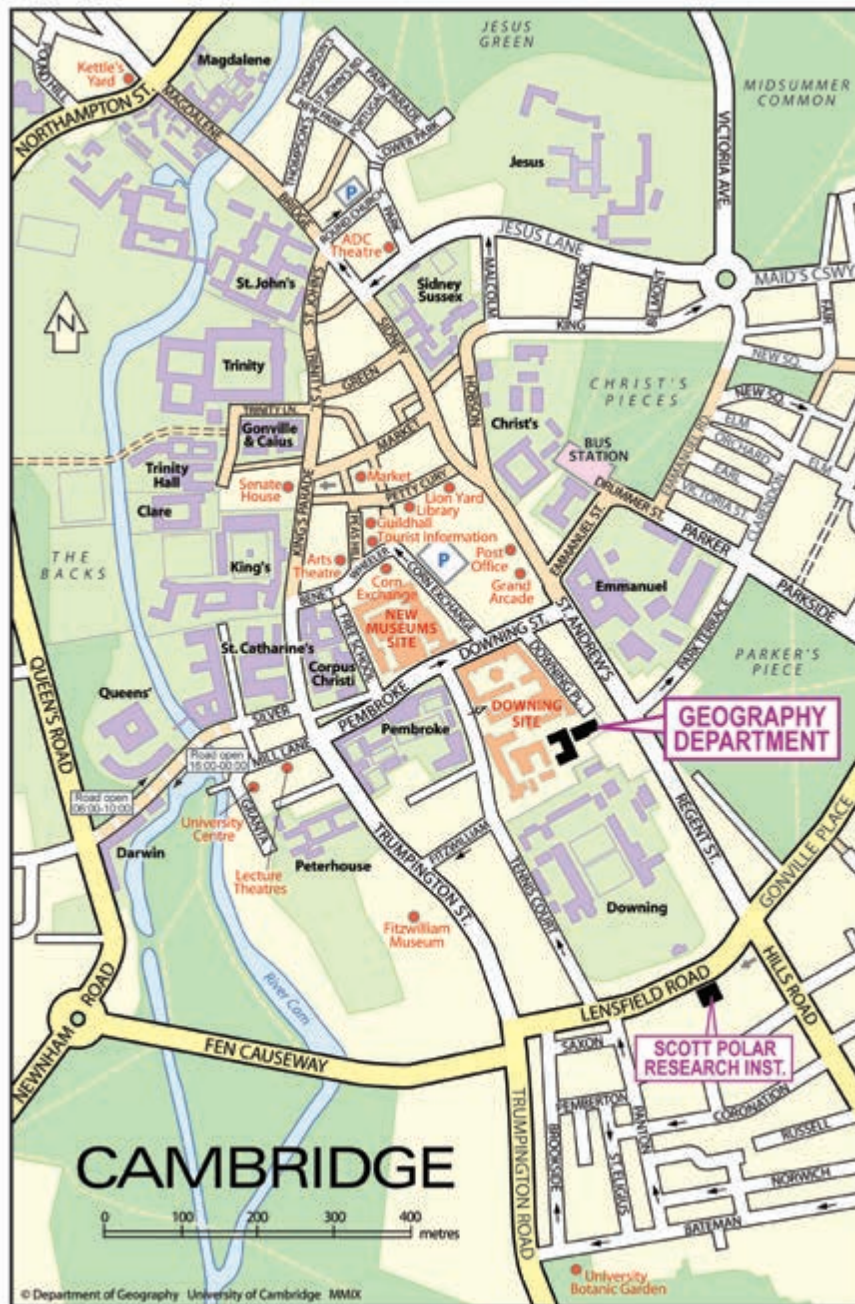


West Sahara 2016









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