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Tom Disney

Doctoral Researcher

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About

Title of PhD: Geographies of Orphan Care in the Russian Federation

Supervisors: Dr Dominique Moran (/staff/profiles/gees/moran-dominique.aspx) , Dr Phil Jones (/staff/profiles/gees/jones-phil.aspx) (School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences) and Dr Jeremy Morris (/staff/profiles/russian/morris-jeremy.aspx) (Russian Studies)

Tom Disney is undertaking ESRC funded doctoral research into the spatial aspects of orphan care in the Russian Federation.

There has been a move within the social sciences, and particularly Children's Geographies, to see children and young people as social agents rather than passive recipients of adult knowledge and power (James et al. 1998). Similarly there has been a move within the Geographies of Health and Care to understand the social and cultural construction of spaces of care through the agency of the carers and the care recipients who use them (Milligan 2001, Philo 1987).

This research will bring together the sub-disciplines of Children's Geographies and Geographies of Health and Care to examine the ways in which orphaned children display agency within these spaces of institutional care, and the ways in which these spaces are socially and culturally constructed by the adults providing the care and the children as recipients of that care.

Qualifications

MA Central and East European Studies & Russian (Joint Hons), University of Glasgow.

MA Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham.

Biography

Tom Disney previously studied Central and East European Studies and Russian at degree level at the University of Glasgow. He then undertook a Masters in Russian and East European Studies at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham. In 2011 he was awarded funding in the form of an ESRC +3 studentship in Central and East European Language-Based Area Studies (CEELBAS).

Research

Research interests

- Orphan Care
- Ethnographic methods
- Visual methods
- Children's geographies
- Geographies of health and care
- Language based area studies (Russia)

Other activities

Tom is actively involved in charity and NGO work having volunteered in a children's home in the Russian Federation in 2005, 2006 and 2011. Since 2005 he has been on the board of trustees of **Ecologia Youth Trust (http://www.ecologia.org.uk/)** , an organization that provides technical and financial support to therapeutic orphan care projects in Russia, Georgia and Uganda, as well as an innovative project supporting women with HIV/AIDS in Kenya. In 2007/2008 he worked for Civic Assistance, an NGO in Moscow which provides educational, legal, financial and emotional support to forced migrants within the former USSR. He is also a member of the British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), and a postgraduate fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS).

Publications

Conference Papers:

Дисней, Т. (2013) Дискусант на заседание «Символическая идентификация: личное и публичное», конференция «Поле социологии в России и Мире: киризис, критика, изменения», Вышая Школа Экономика, 16 марта 2013.

Disney, T. (2013) 'Translating Cultures: Researcher Experience of Language in the Field' Translation, Identity and Exile Conference, University of Glasgow, 16th January 2013.

Disney, T. (2012) 'IEMD: Impact, Exchange and Making a Difference – A Doctoral Researcher led Conference' Teaching and Learning Conference, University of Birmingham, 25th June 2012.

Disney, T. (2012) 'Geographies of Orphan Care in the Russian Federation' Poster Presentation, RGS Midterm Postgraduate Conference, University of Nottingham 21st April 2012.

Disney, T. (2012) 'Therapeutic Spaces of Care: A Russian Case Study' Terry Wade Memorial Conference, University of Glasgow, Friday 17th February 2012.

Peer Reviewed Publications:

Disney, T. (Forthcoming –2013) 'Complex Spaces of Care: A Russian Therapeutic Children's Community' Children's Geographies

Disney, T. (2012) 'Краткий обзор советской концептуализации молодежи' Rusistika No. 37

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