**Session title:** Public sociologies, public geographies.

**Research Group:** SCGRG

**Convenors:** Ian Cook, Jason Chilvers & Helen Griffiths (University of Birmingham)

**Number of sessions:** 2

For each session below please complete a 200 word abstract which will be included in the final conference programme book

For the past two years, ASA President Michael Burawoy (2004) has been arguing for a reinvigorated 'public sociology' which "engages publics beyond the academy in dialogues about matters of political and moral concern" (1607). These arguments are echoed in anthropology, archaeology and other disciplines. In each, proponents are delving into disciplinary histories for inspiration, and into pressing contemporary issues where their work can make a difference. They talk about collaboration, empowerment, social and economic justice, inclusion, participation, re-connection, cosmopolitics and ethics of care in relation to the everyday lives of a variety of publics (e.g. in education, politics, healthcare, NGOs, the 'street'). They discuss how fully collaborative, empowering, etc. such work can be through the many stages of research – from initial ideas to 'dissemination' and after – and what combination of 'publics' need to be involved along the way.

The purpose of this session is to explore if and how new 'public geographies' are developing along these lines. Through one paper and one panel session, we aim to explore their breadth and depth through drawing together key themes, debates and experiences, including new public geographies:

- genealogies
- public intellectuals, 'great and small'
- disciplinary hierarchies & theoretical/applied research
- relations between politics, theory, practice & communication
- relations between academic and lay expertise in multiple spaces of research practice
- strategies for shaping and/or projecting public knowledges
- co-researching, co-authoring, co-everything throughout the research process?
- creation, expression and communication through writing, video, art, journalism, letters, etc.
- ethics, morality, empowerment, justice, inclusion, etc…. in principle and in practice.
- 'accidentally on purpose' research stories.

**Key words:** Public sociology. Public geography. Relevance. Public engagement. Participatory research. Writing.
2 Sessions:  
Thursday 31st August 2006

Session 1: papers:  
Chair: Ian Cook

Ian Cook, Jason Chilvers, Helen Griffiths, Emily Quinton, Rebecca Morris, Lloyd Jenkins, Jo Southworth, Phil Jones, Joanne Harvatt, James Evans, Jon Sadler (University of Birmingham) New public geographies

Mark Boyle & Robert Rogerson (Strathclyde University) Public sociology, critical human geography, Scotland’s global ethic

Jo Norcup (Glasgow University) “Jo, i won’t go back to another school, I’ll do all me learnin’ on the streets - fuck that shit”: exploding geography education.

Emily Quinton (University of Birmingham) Under Control? : Using (auto)ethnography, public geographies and photography to share my stories of recovery from anorexia

Jo Southworth (University of Birmingham) Pedagogy and public geographies: should we introduce volunteering into the geography curriculum?

Kevin Ward (University of Manchester) Geography, geographers and ‘public intellectuals’

(abstracts below)

Session 2: panel  
Chair: Jason Chilvers

Andrew Leyshon (Nottingham Geography)

Kathryn Yusoff (Open University Interdepence Day project)

Christy Smith, Connie McDonnell, Daniel Allen, Rachel Wheeldon et al (St Edmund Campion RC School, Erdington, Birmingham).

Rita Gardner (RGS Director)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF MAIN AUTHOR</th>
<th>FAMILY NAME</th>
<th>Cook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIVEN NAME</td>
<td>Ian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSTITUTION /ORGANISATION ADDRESS</td>
<td>School of Geography, Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences University of Birmingham Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2TT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names of co-authors</td>
<td>Jason Chilvers, Helen Griffiths, Emily Quinton, Rebecca Morris, Lloyd Jenkins, Jo Southworth, Phil Jones, Joanne Harvatt, James Evans, Jon Sadler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TITLE OF PAPER</td>
<td>New public geographies?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT (Max. 200 words)</td>
<td>In the wake of - and alongside - Michael Burawoy's championing of a new public sociology, a variety of geographies are now emerging which call themselves 'public'. For example, Derek Gregory and Michael Dear have embarked on a Very public geographies project, whose aim is to inject geographers' views on important debates into public debate; Noel Castree (in press) has been admiring the recent 'public intellectual' writing of geographers David Harvey, Michael Watts and Neil Smith; and Kevin Ward (in press) has been asking what geographers can learn from debates about public sociology. In this paper, we try to put these 'new' developments into a variety of contexts by sketching out: a) a genealogy of 'public geographies' across the discipline; b) their (potential) relations not only with sociology, but also with environmental science, anthropology, archaeology, history, and others; and c) the breadth and depth of currently (un)identified 'public geographies' in the discipline.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEYWORDS (Max. 5)</td>
<td>Public geographies, public sociology, public interest anthropology.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURE OF SUBMISSION</td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Group</td>
<td>Social and Cultural Geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Title</td>
<td>Public sociologies, public geographies?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS OF ABSTRACT</td>
<td>A) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and accepted</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAIN CONTACT</td>
<td>EMAIL <a href="mailto:i.j.cook@bham.ac.uk">i.j.cook@bham.ac.uk</a> TELEPHONE 0121 4146262</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NAME OF MAIN AUTHOR** | **FAMILY NAME**          | Boyle  
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------  
| **GIVEN NAME**       | Mark                    |         

**INSTITUTION/ORGANISATION ADDRESS**  
Department of Geography and Sociology  
University of Strathclyde  
50 Richmond Street  
Glasgow G1 1XN  

**Names of co-authors**  
Dr Robert Rogerson  

**TITLE OF PAPER**  
Public sociology, critical human geography, Scotland’s global ethic  

**ABSTRACT (Max. 200 words)**  
In August 2003, the departments of Geography and Sociology at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow were merged to create a new Department of Geography and Sociology. Inspired by Michael Burawoy’s promotion of public sociology, the new Department has placed a public interest social science orientation at the heart of its research strategy. Drawing upon insights from public sociology and applied and critical human geography, one strand of this research strategy has been to stimulate and contribute to the development of debates about Scotland’s ‘global ethic’ and progressive global sense of place. Given its position in the new international division of labour, Scotland is having to confront new ethical challenges in regard to the role of TNCs in the country and Scottish TNCs operating elsewhere, attitudes to asylum seeker and refugee flows and high skilled migrants, fair trade and commodity boycotts, overseas voluntary organizations, and environmental pollution. This paper will use the concept of Scotland’s global ethic to both highlight research which might go under the banner of public sociology and public geography, and to reflect critically upon what Burawoy’s agenda might bring to the geographical community.  

**KEYWORDS (Max. 5)**  
Public sociology, critical human geography, Scotland’s global ethic.  

**NATURE OF SUBMISSION (please delete as appropriate)**  
Paper Yes  
Poster NO  
Other No  

**SESSION WHICH THIS PAPER IS LINKED TO (please specify if the abstract is not linked to a session)**  
Social and Cultural Geography Research Group  
Session Title: Public sociologies/public geographies  

**STATUS OF ABSTRACT**  
A) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and accepted  
B) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and no reply received  
C) Abstract has not been sent to session convenor  
D) Other – please state  

**MAIN CONTACT**  
EMAIL  
TELEPHONE 0141 642
RGS-IBG ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2006
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF MAIN AUTHOR</th>
<th>FAMILY NAME</th>
<th>Norcup</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIVEN NAME</td>
<td>Jo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSTITUTION/ORGANISATION ADDRESS</td>
<td>Department of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8Q</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names of co-authors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TITLE OF PAPER</td>
<td>&quot;Jo, I won’t go back to another school, I’ll do all me learnin’ on the streets - fuck that shit&quot;: exploding geography education.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABSTRACT (Max. 200 words)
Despite the right of every person under the age of 16 in the UK to compulsory education, many young people are excluded from mainstream educational spaces and institutions. This paper will focus on the narratives of two students permanently excluded from secondary schools in South East London. Employed as their tutor, my job was to provide a comprehensive curriculum to reflect the scope of mainstream school studies while supporting their specific learning needs. In discussions with the students, an experimental ‘holistic geography’ curriculum evolved. Framed by critical cultural geographies, critical pedagogies, and with reference to Colin Ward and Anthony Fyson’s 1973 text Streetwork: the exploding school I will reflect on the spaces, resources, practices and performative aspects of this alternative curriculum. The students’ small stories also give cause to reflect upon broader epistemological and pedagogic questions about the practice of geography education, and the ways that critical cultural geographies can fuse with the everyday geographies of young people.

KEYWORDS (Max. 5)
Critical cultural geographies, critical pedagogies, geography education, everyday geographies

NATURE OF SUBMISSION (please delete as appropriate)
Paper

SESSION WHICH THIS PAPER IS LINKED TO (please specify if the abstract is not linked to a session)
Research Group | Session Title
---|---
SCGRG | Public sociologies, public geographies

STATUS OF ABSTRACT
A) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and accepted
B) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and no reply received
C) Abstract has not been sent to session convenor
D) Other – please state

MAIN CONTACT
EMAIL | jnorup@ges.gla.ac.uk
TELEPHONE | 07908 777 721
**NAME OF MAIN AUTHOR**

FAMILY NAME  Quinton  
GIVEN NAME  Emily  

**INSTITUTION /ORGANISATION ADDRESS**

School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences, The University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT  

**Names of co-authors**

-  

**TITLE OF PAPER**

Under Control? : Using (auto)ethnography, public geographies and photography to share my stories of recovery from anorexia  

**ABSTRACT (Max. 200 words)**

I suffered for 10 years, recovered, and hid my past from the world for another 5 years. Then one day I got an opportunity to go public with my secret. The reactions were amazing and I suddenly realised that something big was about to happen. I was about to write about and photograph my life in a very personal way that was going to have an impact on other people. This paper will explore an exhibition (in both gallery space and virtual space) about personal experiences of eating disorders and journeys to recovery, and public reactions to that work. It is based on autoethnographic writing (see Ellis and Bochner, 2000) and photography that have helped me to explore my own personal journey through anorexia, bulimia and recovery, and to engage with others who are suffering or who know others who are suffering. In going public, engaging with the public and working with the public I have found myself involved in very emotional public geographies. This paper seeks to find a place for autoethnography within public geographies and aims to tackle a subject which is often hidden away and private in a very open and public way.  

http://www.undercontrolexhibition.co.uk  

**KEYWORDS (Max. 5)**

Anorexia, photography, autoethnography, public geographies  

**NATURE OF SUBMISSION (please delete as appropriate)**

Paper  X  
Poster  
Other  

**SESSION WHICH THIS PAPER IS LINKED TO (please specify if the abstract is not linked to a session)**

Research Group  Social & Cultural  
Session Title  Public sociologies, public geographies.  

**STATUS OF ABSTRACT**

A) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and accepted  X  
B) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and no reply received  
C) Abstract has not been sent to session convenor  
D) Other – please state  

**MAIN CONTACT**

EMAIL  elq353@bham.ac.uk  
TELEPHONE 0121 41 43282
Researchers are engaging, albeit sometimes unconsciously, in public geographies through the everyday processes of their research. When it comes to teaching, however, whilst we may try to engage our students with the wider world through case studies, videos and other examples, the learning experience tends to remain firmly rooted in the lecture theatre. This lack of practical engagement with the ‘real world’ and those being ‘studied’ warrants further investigation. The value of students engaging in voluntary work with local communities is supported in Higher Education for example by the Dearing Report and the Higher Education Active Community Fund. Many students already engage in volunteering as an extra-curricula activity, but incorporation of this into the curriculum remains scarce. This lags behind the USA where service-learning projects are more firmly established, with examples of this being embedded as part of the Geography curriculum (Oberhauser 2002). In Britain, voluntary ‘not-for-credit’ projects have been run by places such as the University of Plymouth (Yarwood, 2005), but more concrete examples of the ideology and practice of ‘volunteering in the curriculum’ is found in sociology, cultural studies and anthropology (for example VASCNET, at the University of Liverpool; Lamphere 2004). This paper aims to examine the pedagogic evidence for introducing hands-on public geographies and volunteering into the Geography curriculum, along with considering some of the more practical pitfalls to be avoided.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAIN CONTACT</th>
<th>EMAIL: <a href="mailto:j.southworth@bham.ac.uk">j.southworth@bham.ac.uk</a></th>
<th>TELEPHONE 0121 415 8022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


NAME OF MAIN AUTHOR | FAMILY NAME | Ward
---|---|---
GIVEN NAME | Kevin

INSTITUTION/ORGANISATION ADDRESS | Geography, School of Environment and Development, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

Names of co-authors | -

TITLE OF PAPER | Geography, geographers and ‘public intellectuals’

ABSTRACT (Max. 200 words) | Recent years have seen a number of geographers engaged in debates over the discipline’s ‘relevance’ to policy-makers. While this work echoes earlier contributions from within geography, it might also be understood as evidence of those within the discipline’s heightened sense of self, in a world which has seen the emergence of a myriad of information intermediaries, challenging the role of the academic as intellectual. Alongside the ‘policy relevance’ debate, the last decade or so has also been witness to mini interventions on issues such as the role of pedagogy in geography, the relationship between school and university geography, the conditions under which geographers labour, the valuing of different types of geographical research and, of course, the future of geography. Through their academic outputs geographers have demonstrated a concern with the changing moral and political economy under which they and other academics labour, and a sense of frustration with how the thwarting of their attempts to ‘reach out’ beyond the academy. This presentations focuses on one aspect that unites but is largely absent from many of these concerns, that is the relationship between geography, geographers and the production of public intellectuals. Drawing on work from sociology, it argues for the usefulness of the notion of public geographies.

KEYWORDS (Max. 5) | Human geography; human geographers, public intellectuals, public geographies

NATURE OF SUBMISSION (please delete as appropriate) | Paper X
Poster
Other

SESSION WHICH THIS PAPER IS LINKED TO (please specify if the abstract is not linked to a session) | Research Group | Session Title
---|---|---
Social & Cultural | Public sociologies, public geographies.

STATUS OF ABSTRACT | A) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and accepted X
B) Abstract has been sent to session convenor and no reply received
C) Abstract has not been sent to session convenor
D) Other – please state

MAIN CONTACT | EMAIL | k.g.ward@manchester.ac.uk
TELEPHONE | 0161 275 7877