David Tross is the winner of the best lecturer teacher award, nominated by students at the Birkbeck Student Union 2019 Honours and Colours ceremony! Read more.

Kezia Barker comments on why are some people stockpiling for Brexit as part of the Birkbeck Explains video series. View the full interview.

Can co-ops solve the housing crisis? Paul Watt comments on the history of housing co-ops in London in this Guardian article. Read more.

Simon Pooley’s research on human wildlife conflicts was featured internationally on an episode of the CCN documentary series Inside Africa in March/April 2019. The episode focused on conservation in the game reserves of Maputaland, an amazingly ecologically and culturally diverse region of South Africa which remains fairly remote and off the tourist beaten track. There are interviews with a range of locals, from those running game reserves to local community members. Simon’s research focuses on the challenges of conservation for those on either side of the fences: conservationists and those living adjacent to conserved areas, on game reserves in Maputaland, South Africa. The episode featured in the UK on April 4.

Rosie Cox is leading a SIG (Special Interest Group) about Digital Housekeeping, Gender and Domestic Work at the technology conference CHI, together with Dr Jennifer Rode from UCL and our PhD student Ana Luisa Serta.

Read more.
FIELD TRIP TO DELHI

From 24 Feb to 02 March, **16 students travelled to Delhi** to learn about conducting research in the field, as well as furthering their understanding of the challenges of urbanisation, globalisation and cultural change, gender and public space, international development, and environmental sustainability. As well as site visits, and meeting NGOs and local experts, Birkbeck students were able to work with students from our collaborating partner in Delhi, the School of Planning and Architecture, to map parts of the city and learn about the methods planners and urban designers use to study cities.

Find more information on our field trips here.

DECOLONISING THE CURRICULUM

Members of the **Geography Department** featured prominently in the "Decolonising the Curriculum: What is all the Fuss About?" workshop held at Birkbeck on 1st February. Co-chairs of the decolonising working group Dr William Ackah and Dr Jan Etienne featured alongside Professor Gurminder, Bhambra University of Sussex, and Dr Meera Sabaratnam, School of Oriental and African Studies, to discuss how universities could and should decolonise their curricula. Ezimma Chigo a student in the department also spoke about her experience and those of other students to the rapt attention of over 100 attendees. The event was sponsored by Karen Wells AD for Equalities and a Professor in the Department.

Listen to the podcast.

SOUTHERN GEOMETRIES

Kate Maclean visited the Southern Geometries exhibition at the Fondation Cartier in Paris, where Bolivian architect Freddy Mamani has an installation. Kate interviewed Mamani as part of her Leverhulme project on The Aymara Bourgeoisie, and the exhibition at Foundation Cartier was the setting for a catwalk show of Chola Pollera fashions in autumn 2018.

Read more.

DIGITAL GEOGRAPHY

Andrea Ballatore gave a talk about the Geography of Web Content in the series of UF lectures at Utrecht University, Netherlands on Tuesday 19th March 2019. The 'Digital Space and Digital Place: Towards a Geography of Web Content' lecture looked at exploiting Web data for geographic analysis and the information society.

Read more.

CHURCHES AND GENTRIFICATION

William Ackah was an invited featured workshop presenter at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in Birmingham Alabama February 19th, speaking about his Fulbright Scholarship research on gentrification and its impact on African American Churches in Pittsburgh. The Proctor Conference is the largest gathering of Progressive African American Churches in the US, regularly attracting over 1000 attendees from across the US.
In February, **Melissa Butcher** attended a team workshop for the Small Smart Cities project at the Institute for Economic Growth in Delhi where the team reviewed the progress of the project. They are now carrying out fieldwork in three smart cities: Nashik, Jalandhar and Shimla.

**Learn more about the project here.**

**HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT**

In January **Simon Pooley** spent 10 days in northern KwaZulu-Natal, learning about the human dimensions of damaging encounters with wildlife in the region from Abednigo Nzuza (pictured). Abednigo and Simon interviewed the family of a man killed by a leopard near Jozini, and members of a community neighbouring a game reserve who are losing livestock to human-wildlife conflict.

**MEETING BOLIVIA’S VICE PRESIDENT**

Kate Maclean had the honour of meeting the Vice President of Bolivia at the Oxford’s Latin American Centre, in 4th February. The event was organised by La Vicepresidencia del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**GENDER, INDIGENEITY AND URBAN CHANGE**

In March, **Kate Maclean** and PhD student Ana Luisa Serta were invited speakers at the workshop Indigenous Urbanisation in Latin America, University of Sheffield. Kate presented “Envisioning gender, indigeneity and urban change: The case of La Paz, Bolivia” and Ana presented “From Sateré-Mawé villages to urban ‘family homes’: gender, indigeneity and homemaking in the city of Manaus, Brazil”.

**PHD EXAMINER IN COLOMBIA**

Paul Elsner acted as External Examiner for the PhD project “Development of an Alternative Method for Multispectral Image Segmentation based on Cartesian Complexes and its associated Oriented Matroids” of Mr José Antonio Valero at the Department of Engineering, Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas in Bogota, Colombia (awarded cum Laude).

**GENTRIFICATION IN HACKNEY**

Paul Watt featured in RT UK News about gentrification at Ridley Road shopping village in Hackney on 28th January 2019.

**Learn more about the project here.**

**LONDON AND DUBAI**

Paul Watt was an invited speaker at the Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation in Milan on March 5th 2019. He spoke about ‘London and Dubai: Poverty/Richness. How can accelerated urban economies be re-addressed?’.

**Watch it here.**
LIVE-IN DOMESTIC WORKERS

Rosie Cox is working with the Anti-Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit (ATLEU) to prepare expert evidence of a legal case that will be held next month. The case challenges a piece of UK legislation that allows live-in domestic workers to be paid below National Minimum Wage. The challenge is being made on the basis that this constitutes gender discrimination because the overwhelming majority of domestic workers are female. Rosie has been helping to provide data to prove that this really is the case (no official data exist) and to illustrate the typical pay and conditions of domestic workers. If the case is successful it could benefit many thousands of domestic workers and au pairs in the future.

Rosie wrote a blog for ATLEU about how the situation affects au pair, available here.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

OLDER WOMEN AND SOCIETY

Penny Versa-Sanso was an invited keynote speaker by the World Tamil Organisation to speak on Older Women’s Economic Contribution to Family and Society at the Houses of Parliament for International Women’s Day, hosted by Rt Hon Kate Green MP.

LONDON HOUSING CRISIS

Paul Watt was an invited speaker at the ‘Building Left Power: Socialism from Below Campaigning Conference’ on Saturday 9th February 2019. His topic was responding to the housing crisis in London. The event, which was organised by Dulwich & West Norwood Momentum and Labour Left, drew together national speakers and local activists, with panel discussions and workshops on Social Care, Education, Housing, Children’s Centres and Libraries, Anti-Racism, Trade Unions, the NHS; Environment and local government.

Paul also talked about the housing crisis in “The Problem of Rent”, a symposium held at University of Edinburgh on March 8th 2019.

DEBT, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Jasmine Gideon has been working with the advocacy group EURODAD - the European network on debt and development as well as the Gender and Development network to produce a policy briefing on the gendered implications of public-private partnerships being used to find public services including health and education. The paper was written to support the advocacy work being done around the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women that will take place in March at the UN. The priority theme of CSW this year is social protection and public services so this will speak to the commission themes.

Jasmine wrote the policy brief together with our PhD student Maria Jose Romero. "Can public-private partnerships deliver gender equality?" is available here.


ANNOUNCEMENT

We are delighted to announce the promotion of Sue Brooks and Melissa Butcher as Professors and Becky Briant as Reader!