

## IESR Conferences

The Institute held a one-day conference on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2008, based at the Best Western Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent. The conference theme "Environment, Well-Being and Healthy Lifestyle" linked to IESR's research on the MRC-funded project "Living in Stoke-on-Trent". A number of high-profile organisations involved in the green exercise field provided speakers. The conference was attended by a large number of delegates from both the public sector and private industry, from health and the environment. Sponsors included Natural England, Stoke-on-Trent Primary Care Trust and RENEW North Staffordshire.

For further details see: [www.staffs.ac.uk/IESR/conf08](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/IESR/conf08)



Delegates in the main conference room at the Moat House Hotel

The success of the conference was such that another conference on the same theme is to be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> 2009. For details see: [www.staffs.ac.uk/IESR/conference\\_Oct09.shtml](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/IESR/conference_Oct09.shtml)

IESR is also running a conference on the theme of "Creative Industries and Creative Communities" to be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2009. See [www.staffs.ac.uk/IESR/conference\\_Nov09.shtml](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/IESR/conference_Nov09.shtml) for further details.

## Public Lectures in Regeneration

A second successful season of free public lectures in Regeneration was organised by **John Dover** in 2008. Thanks to generous support from John Rose Associates, the North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, IESR was able to put on six more lectures. The autumn lectures were as follows:

- 24<sup>th</sup> September: Elizabeth Cox (Head of Connected Economies, The New Economics Foundation): "A low carbon, high well-being future: a new model for local economic development."
- 30<sup>th</sup> October: Oliver Schulze (Gehl Architects, Copenhagen) and Kevin Logan (MaccreeanorLavington, Rotterdam): "Cities for people: the changing nature of public space."
- 27<sup>th</sup> November: Jackie Sadek (Chair, British Urban Regeneration Association): "Market-led regeneration: the key to sustainable communities."

## Staff News

**John Dover** has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Insect Conservation.

John has also been asked to join the Steering Group for a DEFRA-funded project "Effects of Hedgerow Management and Restoration on Biodiversity". The project will be run by CEH (the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology).

John is already on the Steering Groups for the DEFRA-led Habitat Actions Plans for both Arable Margins and Hedgerows.

**Allan Watson** is to act as technical specialist/reviewer for JBA consultants in their work for the Environment Agency's market research framework.

**Caroline Jackson** has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) Midlands Centre Council. This is a two-year appointment, after which Caroline will be Chair for the following two years.

**Fiona Tweed** has been invited to serve as an international expert reviewer for the European Science Foundation for the fourth year in succession. Fiona has also been invited to continue serving as a European Commission expert reviewer. These positions entail reviewing and assessing funding applications.

## IESR Website

The Institute website address is at the top of the newsletter. Further details of Institute activities and facilities are available on the website.

## Inaugural Lecture

**Professor Fiona Tweed** gave her Inaugural Professorial Lecture on Thursday 4th June, 2009. Fiona's main research interests are cold environments and natural hazards. Her lecture, entitled 'Swept Away - Researching Glacier Outburst Floods' focused on the mechanisms controlling the sudden release of water from glaciers and ice sheets and the impact of associated glacial outburst floods or 'jökulhlaups'. The backdrop of climate change continues to underscore the importance of understanding, monitoring and predicting the likely location, nature, timing and impact of glacier outburst floods and emphasises the vital nature of this research in the management of glaciated regions.



Professor Tweed in Iceland

## Green Drinks Group

**Dave Moreman** gave a talk entitled 'Water' at the May 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 meeting of the Stafford Green Drinks group. Stafford Green Drinks, a self-organising group interested in green issues, meets on the second Tuesday of each month in The Vine Hotel, Salter Street, Stafford at 7:30pm. Each meeting starts with a short 20 minute talk followed by focused discussion, then informal networking.

<http://greendrinks.org/index.php?country=UK&city=Stafford>

## Regional Data Laboratory Projects

### ALPHA Project

**Rachel Davey** and **Chris Gidlow** were invited to a Symposium in Amsterdam in February 2009 entitled "ALPHA EU Project (Instruments for Assessing Levels of Physical Activity and Related Health Determinants)", funded by the European Commission, Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection, Ref 109/UPB31/03.

The Public Health Programme of the European Commission, Directorate General Public Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO) aims at reducing the burden of diseases in European Member States. Increasing population levels of physical activity is one of the key public health interventions.

ALPHA aims at providing a set of instruments for assessing levels of physical activity, its underlying factors (e.g. built environment, transport, and workplace) as well as fitness in a comparable way within the European Union. This will enhance further policy planning in EU member states. Chris and Rachel are part of the UK research team.

### Environmental Justice in South Yorkshire

The report on this project, undertaken by **Jon Fairburn** and **Graham Smith**, has now been published by the Environment Agency (see Publications, below).

### Community Approaches to Reducing Health Inequalities

**Rachel Davey** has secured £245,000 from Stoke Primary Care Trust for a research project examining the impact and process of community-led intervention on reducing health inequalities related to physical activity. The project aims to develop and evaluate a novel community-led intervention aimed at reducing health inequalities by targeting health-related problems relating to increasing physical activity as defined by community members themselves. **Graham Smith** is using GIS mapping to produce measures of the built environment for households in each of the three study areas. These measures include access to shops, food outlets, green space and physical activity facilities and barriers to physical activity such as traffic, road accidents and crime.

### ProGreSS (ANGst) – Engaging Residents of Deprived Communities with Local Green Space

**Chris Gidlow** and **Jon Fairburn** are leading a project funded by Natural England looking at green space in Stoke-on-Trent. The project, which aims to encourage residents in Fenton to use their local park, is well underway. There are plans to organise events and activities that will promote more effective and inclusive use of the Foley Field Park.



Foley Field Park

To raise the profile of the project Chris has been interviewed for BBC Radio Stoke and had an article in the Sentinel.

The project website is at: [www.staffs.ac.uk/health\\_progress](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/health_progress).

## Honorary Fellow



Dr. Rachel Goodman has been appointed an Honorary Fellow of the University. Rachel is a former graduate of Staffordshire University and works with **Jon Fairburn** and **Rachel Davey**. Since November 2008 Rachel has been registered as an independent consultant specialising in research and project management, policy analysis, strategy development and workshops and training in the broad field of public health.

## Research Student News

Hugh Deeming was recently awarded a PhD for his work on community resilience to coastal flooding. Hugh was an undergraduate in Geography at Staffordshire University and began his PhD here in October 2004, supervised by Gordon Walker and **Fiona Tweed**. He transferred to Lancaster University with Gordon in 2005 and completed his research in November 2008, having worked on hazard and risk-based projects alongside his PhD research. Hugh's thesis is entitled 'Increasing resilience to storm-surge flooding: risks, trust and social networks'. Hugh is now a Research Associate at Lancaster University and is working on flood-related research projects.

**Fiona Tweed** has begun co-supervising PhD student Kate Staines as part of a NERC Co-operative Award in Science & Engineering (CASE) studentship at the University of Leeds. Kate's research project is entitled 'Modelling rapid landscape change and landscape recovery associated with jökulhlaups at Sólheimajökull, southern Iceland'; her principal supervisor is Dr. Jonathan Carrivick at the University of Leeds.

## RDL projects (continued)

### Social Housing Needs for GIS Analysis

**Graham Smith** is working with Aspire Housing, a Housing Association based in Newcastle-under-Lyme, completing a small feasibility study to assess Aspire's use of Geographical Information Systems and the potential strategic role of GIS for Aspire as an organisation.

## Business Support

IESR and its subsidiary group the Centre for Local Enterprise and Skills have been involved in the following projects:

### RESCO – Renewable Energy Supply Chain Opportunities

**Caroline Jackson** has been successful in bidding to AWM Environmental Technologies Cluster Funding for £1.4 million to support this 3-year project. The project will help businesses realise the commercial opportunities in the supply chain of the new and renewable energy marketplace. It will provide support to businesses looking to gain market advantage in this sector. It will do this through events, networking, presence at exhibitions both in the UK and overseas, specialist research, access to universities for support and innovation and one-to-one support in identification of opportunities for each individual company.

The official launch to the public will be in September with an event which has yet to be finalised. IESR will be working with the University of Warwick and Harper Adams University College to deliver the project along with various key industry affiliates.

### Low Carbon Industry Affiliation

After the success of the first Low Carbon Industry Affiliation project, **Jon Fairburn** has been successful in securing funding for a further series of workshops for local businesses. The new 3-year project will also include a conference every year.

As part of the project, in May **Agne Prochorskaite** attended the IEMA Foundation Course in Environmental Auditing.

### Staffordshire and Shropshire Renewables

IESR continues to contribute to this Staffordshire County Council run project. We are nearly 18 months through the project and researchers are compiling case studies. These cover both suppliers into the renewable industry and case studies from actual installation projects within the West Midlands. These will be showcased on the project website.

## Business and Carbon Footprints

For businesses interested in reducing their carbon footprint, IESR can provide advice as well as undertaking carbon footprint studies on a commissioned basis.

We have a dedicated research and consultancy unit providing a range of specialist services to the public and private sectors. Our remit is broad – we work on issues as diverse as renewable energy strategies, waste management and recycling, economic and environmental impacts of major public projects (such as the M6 Toll), pollution control and sustainable transport solution – but understanding the impacts of climate change and providing guidance to businesses on how they can assess and adapt their impacts is a key part of what we do.

So if you think we can help your business, please contact us.

## Visitors to IESR

Three geography tutors from the University of Madras visited Staffordshire University in November 2008 for a staff development workshop. Prof. T V Kumaran (Head of Geography), Dr. V M Suresh and Dr M Sakthivel were based in the IESR offices for their week-long stay.

Werner Maier, a research associate at the Helmholtz Zentrum München, German Research Center for Environmental Health, Institute of Health Economics and Health Care Management (IGM) attended a four-week research internship at IESR. Werner was invited to visit the institute by **Jon Fairburn**, who supervised his training in the background, structure, creation and use of deprivation indices in the UK, mainly the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) with the objective of creating a German community-based deprivation index for use in epidemiological and public health research. During his visit Werner also attended a course in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) run by **Graham Smith**.



Werner Maier

## Erasmus Exchange

**Jon Fairburn** spent a week on an Erasmus exchange to Oldenburg University in May. See the following link for his article on cycling in Oldenburg, which was published in the May/June edition of RTP1 Tripwire.

[http://www.rtp1.org.uk/download/6461/tripwire-May\\_June-09.pdf](http://www.rtp1.org.uk/download/6461/tripwire-May_June-09.pdf)

## AERG News

### Glacier outburst floods, glacier surges and sediment transfer: implications for proglacial environments

**Fiona Tweed** and **Tim Harris** will lead an Earthwatch-funded field research expedition to Iceland during the summer of 2009. The Icelandic Glaciers research project, which has been running for twelve years, examines the phenomena of glacier surging and glacial outburst floods (jökulhlaups) and monitors the impacts that these events have on the glaciers and outwash plains at several locations in Iceland. Research for the project is carried out by a series of research teams consisting of international scientists and volunteers selected by the Earthwatch Institute. This summer, the research teams will be investigating glacial landforms and processes at the margins of two ice caps in southern Iceland, Vatnajökull and Mýrdalsjökull. Findings from the project are helping scientists to understand the evolution of Iceland's landscape and have applicability to other currently and formerly glaciated environments. Results from this summer's fieldwork will be written up for publication in international peer-reviewed journals.



Svínafellsjökull terminating in glacial lakes, southern Iceland, 2008

## Environment Chamber

IESR now has an Environment Chamber which can simulate a wide range of environmental conditions and allow temperature and humidity to be precisely controlled, enabling testing of a variety of environmental conditions.

The chamber is available for use by outside parties and has already been used for investigations into environmental effects of acid rain on ceramic building materials made from recycled television tubes.

Please contact [iesr@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:iesr@staffs.ac.uk) if you are interested in using the Environment Chamber.



## Presentations

This section briefly reviews presentations made by IESR members at conferences, workshops and other events since August 2008.

The following presentations were made at the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior General Assembly, Reykjavík, Iceland August 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2008:

Russell, A.J., **Tweed, F.S.**, **Roberts, M.J.**, Knudsen, Ó., **Harris, T.D.**, Gudmundsson, M.T., & Marren, P.M. 2008. The causes, characteristics and impacts of the July 1999 sudden onset jökulhlaup, Sólheimajökull, Iceland.

Carrivick, J.L., Russell, A.J., Rushmer, E.L., **Tweed, F.S.**, Marren, P.M., Deeming, H., & Lowe, O.J. 2008. Geomorphological insights towards ice-volcano interactions and Holocene landscape evolution at Kverkfjoll volcano, central Iceland.

October 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 2008. **Jon Fairburn** was invited to speak on "The relevance of environmental justice within the European Union: research strategies and analysis methods" at the conference "Environmental justice: Social Distribution of Health-Relevant Environmental Hazards", Berlin, organised by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Nuclear Plant Safety and the German Environmental Office.

February 2009. **Rachel Davey** and **Chris Gidlow** were invited to the "ALPHA EU Project (Instruments for Assessing Levels of Physical Activity and Related Health Determinants)" Symposium in Amsterdam.

23 February 2009. **Jon Fairburn** presented a talk entitled "Towards a toolkit to assess the social impacts of environmental measures." at the technical workshop "Scientific Support for Promoting Social Fairness in Sustainable Development", organised by the European Commission in Brussels.

27 February 2009. **Jon Fairburn** was an invited speaker at the Better Environments, Better Lives Summit in Birmingham organised by the Environment Agency. His talk was entitled "Overview of approaches in response to the challenge".

18th May 2009. **Glynn Skerratt** delivered a Higher Education Academy Geography, Earth and Environmental Science Subject Centre Independent Learning Workshop at Cranfield University.

15th-18th June 2009. **Glynn Skerratt** evaluated European Commission ICT-based lifelong learning project proposals in Brussels.

20<sup>th</sup> June 2009. At the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual conference in Lisbon, Portugal, Dr Charlie Foster (Oxford University) presented a paper submitted by **Graham Smith** entitled "Perceived neighbourhood versus commonly used definitions: how should we define people's walking neighbourhoods?" and **Rachel Davey** and **Tom Cochrane** were invited to give presentations on their research into small area and individual level predictors of physical activity in the Special Symposium "International Physical Activity and Environment Network".

## Research Reports

Two reports produced by IESR were published at the end of 2008 on the client websites:

**Graham Smith** and **Jon Fairburn** (2008) *Updating and improving the National Population Database to National Population Database 2*. Research Report 678. Health and Safety Executive Publications. Available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr678.htm>

**Fairburn J** and **Smith G** (2008) *Environmental Justice in South Yorkshire: Working towards a better quality of life*. Environment Agency Publications. Available at <https://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/epages/eapublications.storefront>

## Publications

The following publications by IESR members have appeared since August 2008.

Oberweis, Sacha and **Al-Shemmeri, Tarik** (2009) *Design of a 20kW biomass heat generator: CFD modelling and dissociation*. VDM Verlag, Saarbrücken.

Kwan, Patrick S L; **Barrigas, Mishele**; Bolton, Frederick J; French Nigel P; **Gowland, Peter**; Kemp, Richard; Leatherbarrow, Howard; Upton, Mathew; and Fox, Andrew J (2008) Molecular epidemiology of *Campylobacter jejuni* populations in dairy cattle, wildlife, and the environment in a farmland area. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, August 2008: 5130-5138

**Cochrane, Thomas; Davey, Rachel C.; Gidlow, Chris; Smith, Graham R.; Fairburn, Jon**; Armitage, Christopher J.; Stephansen, Hilde and Speight, Svetlana (2009) Small area and individual level predictors of physical activity in urban communities: a multi-level study in Stoke on Trent, England. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, **6**(2): 654-677.

**Dennis, Roger L. H.**, Hardy, Peter B. and Shreeve, Tim G. (2008) The importance of resource databanks for conserving insects: a butterfly biology perspective. *Journal of Insect Conservation*, **12**: 711-719.

**Dover, J.** and Settele, J. (2009) The influences of landscape structure on butterfly distribution and movement: a review. *Journal of Insect Conservation*, **13**: 3-27.

Gardiner, Tim and **Dover, John** (2008) Thermal resources are important for Orthoptera in open landscapes? *Journal of Insect Conservation*, **12**: 705-709.

Rescia, Alejandro; Pons, Anna; Lomba, Irene; Estevan, Cristina & **Dover, John W.** (2008) Reformulating the social-ecological system in a cultural rural mountain landscape in Picos de Europa region (northern Spain). *Landscape and Urban Planning*, **88**: 23-33.

**Dover, John** (2008) Review of A.M. Shapiro and T.D Manolis, Field Guide to Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Regions (University of California Press) *Journal of Insect Conservation*, **12**: 725-726.

**Fairburn, Jon**, Butler, Bridget and **Smith, Graham** (2009) Environmental justice in South Yorkshire: locating social deprivation and poor environments using multiple indicators. *Local Environment*, **14**: 139-154.

**Gidlow, Christopher J., Cochrane, Tom, Davey, Rachel** and Smith, Hannah (2008) In-school and out-of-school physical activity in primary and secondary school children. *Journal of Sports Sciences*, **26**: 1411-1419.

Ofei-Manu, Paul and **Skerratt, Glynn** (2009) The current level of concern and knowledge of environmental sustainability (ES) is a reflection of its marginalization from the core school curriculum and by the media in Japan. *The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*, **5**, 15-34.

Carrivick, J.L., Russell, A.J., Rushmer, E.L., **Tweed, F.S.**, Marren, P.M., Deeming, H., Lowe, O.J. (2009) Geomorphological evidence towards a de-glacial control on volcanism. *Earth Surface Processes & Landforms* **34**, 1164-1178.

**Williams, Stephen** (2009) *Tourism Geography: A New Synthesis* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Routledge.

Lynch-Wood, Gary, **Williamson, David** and Jenkins, Wyn (2009) The over-reliance on self-regulation in CSR policy. *Business Ethics: A European Review*, **18**: 52-65.

### IESR Office

The IESR Office is situated in Room S128 of the Mellor Building, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent. The office is open Monday and Wednesday-Friday (with an hour for lunch about 12.15-1.15).

## MA in Regeneration

The MA in Regeneration at Staffordshire University aims to meet the continuing professional development needs of people engaged in all areas of regeneration, offering a learning experience that reflects the multi-agency environment in which regeneration practitioners work. The course will provide up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the issues that affect regeneration and a range of competencies that can be used within the work place.

Practitioners in regeneration need to have a broad overview of the social and political systems within which their services operate, as well as enhanced knowledge of best practice in terms of delivering regeneration programmes. The MA provides students with an overview of the various dimensions of regeneration and aspects of regeneration management including such areas as partnership working, community involvement and effective strategic planning.

The programme content has been devised in collaboration with professionals from a variety of organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors. There is a wide range of options, which, together with the material presented in the core modules and the opportunity to choose the focus of the dissertation, enables a substantial degree of specialisation. It is taught by a cross-university group of academics and external specialists, all of whom have an active interest in, and engagement with, the regeneration agenda. The award is managed by the Creative Communities Unit in the Faculty of Arts, Media and Design.

The learning experience focuses upon discussion, critical debate and the development and application of a series of advanced work-related skills and competencies. The awards are designed to relate directly to the student's work experience, and to enable them to enhance their critical understanding of the broader policy context in which they are operating.

The MA Regeneration includes the following modules (courses):

- Empowering Communities
- Managing Regeneration
- Research Methods
- Options from a range of subject areas including: Regeneration, Community Practice, Community Arts, Geography, and International Politics.
- Dissertation

For more information see:

[http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study\\_here/courses/regeneration-tcm429543.jsp](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/courses/regeneration-tcm429543.jsp)

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