



Newsletter of the Climate Change Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society and the Institute of British Geographers

No. 3, January 2007

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Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the third Newsletter of the Climate Change Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers.

Best wishes for a good and productive happy new year!

CCRG has been productive; we have already organized a range of meetings for 2007 – including a meeting for postgraduates together with the IHDP in Leeds, a session at the EGU and again a number of sessions at the RGS-IBG annual conference 2007. Our web site is also developing into a useful resource for the group and we plan to make this a resource for the wider community.

Support the CCRG: Please contribute to the newsletter and the website – let us know about publications, grants, meetings, conference presentations, funding opportunities, ... – we will increase the frequency of the newsletter and keep the web site up-to-date. A somewhat disappointing point is the fact that still nearly half of the members of the CCRG have not paid their subscriptions. Please see the section “Subscriptions” below, if you still need to pay.

Let us hear what you think about the activities of the CCRG and the further development of the group.

With the very best wishes,

Jörg Kaduk

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2007 - 28-31 August

We are looking forward to the annual conference at the Royal Geographical Society in London 28-31 August 2007. The theme is: Sustainability and Quality of Life

The CCRG has been allocated 6 sessions, combined into 3 longer slots. The sessions are 'Drivers of Climate Change', 'Global Climate Change: Impacts and Adaptation' and 'Global Change Hotspots'

We have key note talks by in the latter two sessions by:

Professor Martin Parry and a speaker from the NERC cross-disciplinary National Centre for Earth Observation.

The timescale for submission of abstracts last year was tight, so please respond to the relevant conveners by January 31st or as soon as possible, even if just to register your interest in contributing. Posters and presented papers are both welcome.

Session 1: Drivers of Climate Change

Climatic change on decadal timescales is increasingly accepted as being driven by greenhouse gas increases resulting from human activity. On longer timescales, however, (102-106 years) climate is forced by a range of natural factors and these combine to drive a highly variable system. An understanding of these combinations is hampered by research groups and projects that often focus on only one element, or one 'driver'.

The aim of this session is to bring together researchers from within and outside Geography who are working on the forcing factors that drive climate change, including oceanic changes, solar forcing, volcanic impacts and others, as well as greenhouse gases. The session is therefore open to those researching any timescale and in any area. Discussion papers and reviews are welcome, as well as presentations of modelling results or palaeoclimatic data. Both posters and spoken papers are welcome, and part of the scheduled time will be allocated to a poster session. A discussion phase is planned at the end of the session to attempt a synthesis and identify key research gaps.

Please e-mail titles and abstracts, or expressions of interest, to Jeff Blackford (Jeff.Blackford@Manchester.ac.uk) and Dmitri Mauquoy (d.mauquoy@abdn.ac.uk) asap.

Session 2: Global climate change: impacts and adaptation

The Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change drew attention to the threat of large climate changes. It claimed that "such changes would transform the physical geography of the world. A radical change in the physical geography of the world must have powerful implications for the human geography – where people live, and how they live their lives".

The aims of this session are to examine the realistic extent of potential impacts of climate change, and to present, explore and interrogate the conclusions of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, due to be published in Spring 2007.

Please e-mail titles and abstracts, or expressions of interest, to Nigel Arnell and Jeff Blackford (Jeff.Blackford@Manchester.ac.uk) asap.

Session 3: Global Change 'Hotspots'

Relating directly to the 'drivers' and 'impacts' sessions, this meeting aims to examine 'hotspots' of environmental change. Satellite earth observation and other monitoring has enabled humans to identify key contemporary large-scale anthropogenic or climate-related earth system modifications, and earth system models have shown where we might expect such changes to be most prevalent, rapid or wide ranging in future. Certain of these global change 'hotspots' include the possibility of feedback to the climate system, and there is a sometimes-bewildering array of processes and areas involved. This wide scope often necessitates researchers and models sub-setting the effects, either by process or region, and concentrating their focus on a relatively select aspect of this global system. Examples of such processes include, but are not limited to, sea ice melting/ice sheet retreat (high latitudes), forest and biodiversity loss (e.g. tropics), permafrost changes (boreal), peatland desiccation and burning (boreal and tropics),

water shortage (e.g. mid-latitudes and others) along with changes in the atmosphere related to aerosols and trace gases (e.g. tropospheric ozone).

The aim of this session is to help bring together researchers from within and outside Geography who are working on such global and climate change 'hotspots', whether it be defined by process or by region, in order to present a holistic global overview of where contemporary hotspots are located, the processes that control them, and their rapidity, magnitude and significance.

The format will be one 40 minute keynote speaker plus 8 x 20 minute papers.

Please e-mail titles and abstracts, or expressions of interest, to Martin Wooster (Martin.Wooster@kcl.ac.uk and Mark Mulligan (Mark.Mulligan@kcl.ac.uk) asap.

We also co- convene two sessions with the Developing Areas Research Group, DARG, on 'Generosity and Disaster' on Friday 1 September.

The official deadline for submission of Abstracts is Thursday 1 March 2007, but the convenors really require an earlier notification as the timescale for planning the sessions is really tight. Please get in touch with the convenors as soon as possible.

Early registration closes – Wednesday 9 May 2007

For all further information and how to register, please go to www.rgs.org/AC2007/

We hope to see you there!

Website (www.rgs-ccrg.org.uk)

Our website has experienced some further development and is now managed by our new Web Editor Rizwan Nawaz (n.r.nawaz@leeds.ac.uk).

Like any community site, our website will only be as good as the contributions you make to it. A new feature of the website is the searchable Members' Directory. Various options are available for searching the directory and it is intended for use by the climate change community and as a resource for media and NGOs alike. We hope to have up to date news for the climate community, and details of events and meetings which may prove useful to members. We want to know what you are working on: successful publications, grants, or projects, or perhaps vacancies for climate studies in your Department. If you have something to tell the climate community - we hope that this website will be the place to do it.

Points of interest

Subscriptions

Many of you have now paid your subscription – many thanks indeed! Nearly half of the CCRG members however have still not paid their subscriptions! It is critical that our members pay their subscriptions now, as the start-up grant from the RGS ended last year and we do need to have a solid subscription base in order to successfully plan and develop the Group's activities.

If you have not done so yet, please complete the subscription form appended to this Newsletter, and return this to as soon as possible to:

Dr Duncan McGregor
Centre for Developing Areas Research
Department of Geography
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, U.K.

If you are also a member of the RGS/IBG please register your membership of CCRG separately with the RGS/IBG (details are in their recent Subscription circulation). This does help the Group in that we get a small (£1 per head) subvention from RGS/IBG annually.

Thanks in anticipation!

CCRG (with IHDP) Postgraduate Workshop

University of Leeds, 29th-30th March 2007

Postgraduate students are invited to attend a two-day Climate Change Postgraduate Conference which is hosted by the CCRG (Climate Change Research Group) and IHDP (International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change) solely for PhD students at different stages of their research to present their ideas and findings to a relatively specialised audience. Leading academics from the Global Change field will also deliver presentations.

The climate change debate is as broad as it is controversial. Therefore the aim of this conference is to bring together a wide range of interdisciplinary researchers to present and network with their peers. How does your research fit the global climate debate, how does your research span across different disciplines and where should we as scientists go from here? While the emphasis of the conference is on the 'human dimensions' of climate change, environmental scientists are also welcome to present their own findings.

This conference is open for all PhD levels; for first/second years to present their ideas and preliminary findings and for third/fourth years to have their research scrutinised prior to submission. All participants are expected to present their work. If you are a relatively new postgraduate student then a brief (5 minute) overview of your research will be sufficient. For those who are keen to present their findings within the longer, 20 minute slot, could you also attach a brief abstract/introduction on what you intend to present.

A preliminary schedule of the event is available from our web site www.rgs-ccrg.org.uk and includes some high-profile speakers. If you are keen to participate then could you please contact the local organiser Sara Alexander (s.alexander05@leeds.ac.uk) before February 7th.

The ESRC, Royal Geographical Society and the Leeds University School of Geography has approved funding for the Workshop and participants can expect cost of attendance to be fully subsidised. Lunch, refreshments, accommodation (if required) and dinner will be provided. While we are happy to help subsidise your participation we do ask that if you have other sources of travel funding available to you e.g. NERC then those should be used first. Please address further queries to the local organiser, Sara Alexander.

Collaborations with RMetS

The Royal Meteorological Society has very kindly decided that, in the interest of cross-society collaboration, CCRG members will be made welcome at any of the Met Soc's monthly London meetings (Wednesday afternoons) with no charge for the meeting (or even for the refreshments!).

Meteorology and climatology is a fairly small science area so it would be good for everyone to know what everyone else is up to!

Many thanks to Howard for his liasing with the RmetS!

Other activities

Routledge Book Proposal

Routledge have invited the CCRG to bring together a collection based the contributions of CCRG to the RGS-IBG conference. If you would like to find out more on this initiative please contact Jeff Blackford jeff.blackford@manchester.ac.uk or Callum Firth c.firth@bton.ac.uk.

Solar variability, climate and the palaeoenvironmental record

Session at the European Geophysical Union, Vienna, 15-20 April 2007

Meetings

RMetS meetings

<http://www.rmets.org/event/calendar.php>

A selection:

Climate, people and computers

Thursday, 1st March 2007 – Birmingham

Info: Further information can be obtained from Dr Ian Phillips or Mr John Kings (emails below)

Important: Please note that the date for this meeting is not confirmed but it will be sometime in March

Email: i.d.phillips@bham.ac.uk / john.kingsmead@tiscali.co.uk

The science of climate change: A discussion of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report

Thursday, 1st March 2007 – London

This event takes place on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd March 2007

The meeting is free to attend but registration is necessary. Please visit www.royalsoc.ac.uk/events to register

Location: The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG

Email: discussion.meetings@royalsoc.ac.uk

Studying environmental and climatic change using tree rings

Friday, 9th March 2007 – Durham

Time: 19.45

Speaker: Dr Rob Wilson, University of Edinburgh

Senior Common Room of St Chad's College, North Bailey, Durham City

Email: dennis.wheeler@sunderland.ac.uk

The International Polar Year

Wednesday, 21st March 2007 - London

Time: 14.00

The Zoological Society of London Meeting Rooms, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY

Email: chiefexec@rmets.org

General Meetings

QUEST Open Science Conference

26 - 29 March 2007 – Oxford

The first QUEST Open Science Conference is intended to showcase a broad cross-section of Earth system science research including some of the ongoing activities within QUEST. It is timed to take place when QUEST's portfolio of projects is almost complete, while many activities are just beginning - the ideal time to promote cross-fertilization between QUEST and other programmes and to build an Earth System Science community.

QUEST's Annual Science Meeting (ASM), open to QUEST Project Scientists only, takes place at either end of the OSC. A programme covering both events OSC+ASM, is available.

<http://quest.bris.ac.uk/workshops/OSC/index.html>

2nd Alexander von Humboldt Conference on The Role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention

Location: Lima, Peru

05 – 09 March 2007

<http://meetings.copernicus.org/avh2/>

EGU General Assembly

15 – 20 April 2007 – Vienna, Austria

<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2007/>

AAG 2007

April 17-21, 2007 – San Francisco, California

<http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/SF2007/index.cfm>

AGU 2007 Joint Assembly

22-25 May 2007 – Acapulco, Mexico.

The Program Committee is developing a Union-wide science program that will cover topics in all areas of geophysical sciences.

Abstract Deadline: 1 March 2007 23:59 UT

E-mail: ja-help@agu.org (subject: 2007 Joint Assembly)

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja07/>

Harmonisation within Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling for Regulatory Purposes

02/07/2007 - 05/07/2007 , Cambridge, U.K.

The 11th international conference on "Harmonisation within Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling for Regulatory Purposes" is aimed towards model developers, model users, environmental protection agencies, and environmental legislation experts. It is distinguished from other conferences by its focus on common tools and methodologies.

<http://the-eggs.org/eventdetail.php?id=169>

3rd Alexander von Humboldt International Conference: The EAST ASIAN MONSOON, Past, Present and Future

Location: Beijing, China

Date: 27 – 31 August 2007

Radiation and Climate

29.7. - 3.8.2007 – New London, NH , United States of America

The theme of the 5th Gordon Research Conference on Radiation and Climate is "Integrating multi-scale measurements and models for key climate questions". For additional information, please contact Bill Collins (wcollins@ucar.edu) or Phil Russell (PHILIP.B.RUSSELL@NASA.GOV).

Contact: William Collins, wcollins@ucar.edu, Phone:+1-303-497, Fax:+1-303-497

<http://www.grc.org>

International Symposium on Snow Science

03/09/2007-07/09/2007 - Moscow

Contact: International Glaciological Society, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, CB2 1ER, UK, Tel: +44 (0)1223 355 974 Fax: +44 (0)1223 354 931, E-mail: igsoc@igsoc.org

<http://the-eggs.org/eventdetail.php?id=157>

<http://www.igsoc.org>

Summer schools and courses

Remote Sensing of the Land Surface. METIER Graduate Training Course No. 3:

23-27 April 2007, University of Leicester, UK

Remote sensing offers key tools for earth and environment observation as well as assessments of effects caused by climate change or global change processes related to urbanisation, migrations, or land-use change. It is needed in all environmental disciplines. Remote sensing is a methodology for data collection, analysis and the parameterization of environmental models. Note that remote sensing is much more than just collecting and analysing satellite data. It requires profound interdisciplinary knowledge to be able to interpret the data received and make it operational, e.g. for the use in Geographical Information Systems. The present course addresses remote sensing in relation to processes and models of the land surface. This area requires different methodological approaches and will be beneficial to different applications and PhD theses.

<http://peer-initiative.org/html/obj138.html>

Environmental studies in the boreal forest zone

14-28 July 2007 – Central Forest Biospheric Reserve, Fedorovskoe, Tver' region, Russia, Organized by the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in collaboration with A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Moscow, Russia

See NEESPI (<http://neespi.org>) and IARC (http://www.iarc.uaf.edu/education_outreach/summer/2007/).

QUEST ES4 Summer School

10 - 21 September 2007 – Bristol

This is an opportunity for early-stage researchers in Earth and environmental sciences to discover more about the wider context of their own research, and develop networks with each other and with the guest lecturer scientists. QUEST ES4 is part of NERC's training provision for its post-graduate researchers.

<http://quest.bris.ac.uk/programme/es4/index.html>

Geo-visualization in Landscape Research. METIER Graduate Training Course No. 4

Autumn 2007

Geo-visualization is a new tool for understanding, interpretation and assessment of environmental data. Geo-visualization of landscape patterns and processes is an innovative instrument in environmental sciences, which is based on Geographical Information Systems applied to connect data collected in the field or from other sources to “visible” spatial information. A methodological approach of increasing relevance is the 3D visualization of spatial processes, such as land-use changes. Hence, geo-visualization represents a powerful tool that can be of strategic importance for all disciplines in environmental sciences. It offers new perspectives in research and practice, especially with respect to public and stakeholder involvement making research results and predictions visible to laymen. Geo-visualization does not only offer the possibility to show developments in the past, but also to visualize possible future scenarios, depending on alternative decisions that can be taken today.

SOLAS Summer School 2007

22/10/2007-03/11/2007 - Corsica, France

<http://the-eggs.org/eventdetail.php?id=162>

<http://www.solas-int.org/>

METIER

For more training courses of PEER, the Partnership for European Environmental Research, see the METIER (METHODs of Interdisciplinary Environmental Research) home page:

<http://peer-initiative.org/html/obj51.html>

Links to meeting calendars

Global Change Master Directory

Global Change Calendar: http://gcmd.gsfc.nasa.gov/ConferenceCalendar/conf_date.html

Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis

Conferences announcements: http://www.itas.fzk.de/eng/infum/gch_act.htm

European Geosciences Union (EGU)

Meeting Overview: http://www.copernicus.org/EGU/meeting_overview.html

COSIS Meeting Calendar for the European Geosciences Union:

http://www.cosis.net/members/mc/showEvents.php?karealist=3,5&p=the%20European%20Geosciences%20Union&ex=1&hf=egu_y

Information service of the EGU

<http://the-eggs.org/events.php>

AGU meetings

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/>

Recent publications of CCRG members

Bravo, M. and Rees, W. G. (2006) Cryo-politics :Environmental Security and the Future of Arctic Navigation, *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, **13**, 205-215

Los, S. O., G. P. Weedon, P. R. J. North, J. D. Kaduk, C. M. Taylor, and P. M. Cox, 2006. An observation-based estimate of the strength of rainfall-vegetation interactions in the Sahel. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **33**, L16402, doi:10.1029/2006GL027065

Nawaz, N.R. and Adeloje, A.J., 2006. Sampling Uncertainty of Climate Change Impacts, *Climatic Change*, **78**,2-4, 257-292.

Williams, C. J. R., Kniveton, D. R. & Layberry, R., 2006. 'Climatic and oceanic associations with daily rainfall extremes over southern Africa'. *International Journal of Climatology* . **27** (1): 93-108

Recent grants of CCRG members

Michael Redclift and **Mark Pelling** at Department of Geography, King's College London have been awarded circa £500k by the ESRC for a three year project commencing in April 2007 to study adaptive capacity to climate change related shocks in the context of rapid urbanisation on Mexico's Yucatan coast.

Funding opportunities

ESRC

In collaboration with British Library, to conduct a study into the scope that exists for developing and exploiting resources within the library's collections for inform research into the impact and implications of population change. Up to £30,000. Deadline: 20 February 2007. www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current_funding_opportunities/British_Library_Scoping_Study.aspx

AHRC

Specialist awards category of the collaborative research training scheme. Up to £10,000. Deadline: 30 April 2007. www.ahrc.ac.uk/university_staff/postgrad/collaborative_research_training_Scheme.asp

Royal Society

Dudley Stamp Memorial fund, to assist with research or travel. Grants up to £500 each. Deadline: 28 February 2007. www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=2938

Joint projects

Joint projects between research teams in the UK and Western Europe; Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; South America and Cuba; Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Ghana and Tanzania; Taiwan, France and Brazil. Up to £6,000. Deadline: 13 March 2007. www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=2344

Research grants up to £15,000

Deadline: 3 April 2007. www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=1128

BGRG

Postgraduate research grants of up to £500 to cover conference grants, course attendance, field visits etc. Deadline: 31 March 2007. www.geomorthology.org.uk/pages/funding/opportunities.html

Research grants up to £1,000

Small projects, etc. www.geomorthology.org.uk/pages/funding/researchgrants

Libyan Studies

Grants for research on the archaeology, history, linguistics and natural history of Libya. Up to £2,500 each. Deadline: 1 April 2007. www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/libya

British Academy

Small grants to cover costs of research at postdoctoral level in humanities and social sciences. Up to £7,500. Deadline: 16 April 2007. www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/srg.html

British conference grants.

World congress grants, up to £15,000. Overseas conference grants, up to £800. Deadline: 16 April 2007. www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/conferences.html

Climate Change Research Group

Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers

Subscription announcement

Dear Member of CCRG

It was agreed at the inaugural AGM of the Climate Change Research Group, held at RGS/IBG on 2 September 2005, that the following annual subscription charge should be levied on all members (including members of RGS/IBG), to support and develop the activities of the Group:

Waged: £10 per annum
Unwaged/students: £5 per annum

It was also agreed to offer a three-year subscription option:

Waged: £30 for the period 1 September 2005 – 30 August 2008
Unwaged/students £15 for the period 1 September 2005 – 30 August 2008, with the caveat that members gaining full-time employment during this period would be expected to pay the balance of full subscription for any remaining complete years.

The preferred method of payment is by personal cheque (made payable to: *Climate Change Research Group*). Please remit your subscription to me at the address given below. Please also include your full contact details with your cheque, as per the form attached, and I will acknowledge receipt of the cheque by email.

Overseas members should pay in sterling if possible. If this is difficult, please contact me.

If you wish to set up a Standing Order through a UK bank, please email me (with contact details) and I will post the form to you.

In future, the subscription year will run from 1 September to 31 August, to facilitate reporting at the Group's AGM (to be held at the RGS/IBG Annual Conference).

Yours sincerely

Dr Duncan McGregor

Treasurer, Climate Change Research Group
4 November 2005

Contact details:

CEDAR, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, UK

Tel: (+)44 (0)1784 443573; Fax: (+)44 (0)1784 472836; email d.mcgregor@rhul.ac.uk

Climate Change Research Group

Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers

Subscription form

A. I wish to pay by personal cheque (enclosed)

Please circle payment option:

Waged: £10 per annum

Unwaged/students: £5 per annum

Waged: £30 for the period 1 September 2005 – 30 August 2008

Unwaged/students £15 for the period 1 September 2005 – 30 August 2008. I understand that if I gain full-time employment during this period I will be expected to pay the balance of full subscription for any remaining complete years.

I wish to pay annually by Standing Order. Please post the SO form to me.

Contact Details

Name: Prof/Dr/etc

Unwaged status : undergrad/postgrad/retired/other: please circle as appropriate

RGS/IBG Member/Fellow: YES NO Please circle as appropriate

Address for correspondence:

.....

Tel: Fax;

Email(s):

Signature: