

## GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH SEMINARS: SPRING 2019 BEYOND THE FRINGE . . .

CONVENOR: PROF. DIVYA P. TOLIA-KELLY (d.p.tolia-kelly@sussex.ac.uk)

ALL SESSIONS are held on Wednesday's usually in the Global Studies Resource Centre (Except 13/3, 10/4 and the 8/5), Arts C, Ground Floor, in the School of Global Studies, University of Sussex.

- (1) Jay Emery. February 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 in GSRC 12-1pm: Chair Ben Rogaly  
*Ruins of industrial culture: Absence-presence, affect and industrial ruination in the Miners' Welfare*  
This talk begins with a brief overview of my research into the affective and temporal dynamics of belonging among working-class mining families in the Nottinghamshire coalfield. I will spend a short time outlining the academic contexts of the research, my approaches, findings and contributions. Following this introduction, the main portion of the talk focusses on my research on the affective intensities and absence-presences evoked by creative and embodied engagements in and with Miners' Welfares in the Nottinghamshire coalfield (High, 2014; Mah, 2012). Attracting geographers interested in the spectral, embodied and affective dimensions of memory, ruins of industrial workplaces have served as fertile spaces for animating geographical imaginations, methodological experimentation and politically engaged rumination (DeSilvey & Edensor, 2013; Edensor, 2005; Hill, 2013). However, solely focussing on abandoned factories, mills, and so forth, suggests that industrial culture was confined to workplaces when, in fact, it 'extended out from the shop floor into the industrial communities in which they were located' (High, MacKinnon and Perchard, 2017). Moreover, whilst embodied knowledges of industrial ruins should be welcomed, the promised critical affordances of ruins are yet to be forthcoming. I suggest this is because of a lack of social, historical and critically-reflexive knowledges of ruins as spaces embedded in classed processes of industrial ruination. This talk documents the shared and personal histories, memories and absence-presences of working-class industrial culture in the Miners' Welfares of the Nottinghamshire coalfield, UK. Once thriving centres of social and community life for miners as well as their families, Miners' Welfares have slowly been erased from transforming coalfield landscapes, with those remaining in liminal states of living ruination. I conclude by arguing that from the relationships between social affective memories, industrial ruination and class inequalities of post-industrialism emerges a fragmented and localised politics of anger, apathy and alienation.
- (2) ~~CANCELLED Hilary Geoghegan March 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 in GSRC, 1-3pm Chair: Divya P. Tolia Kelly in the GSRC~~  
~~[http://www.reading.ac.uk/ges/aboutus/staff/h\\_geoghegan.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/ges/aboutus/staff/h_geoghegan.aspx)~~
- (3) Francis Collins Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> in GSRC, 1-3pm (Joint session with SCMR) University of Waikato, SCMR seminar series - <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/staff-profiles/people/fcollins>
- (4) Raihana Ferdous March 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 Room Arts C233, 1-3pm: Chair David Ockwell  
[https://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate/current\\_research\\_students/?id=9898](https://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate/current_research_students/?id=9898)
- (5) Aya Nasser April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 in GSRC: Chair Divya P. Tolia-Kelly: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/profiles/467345>
- (6) James Kneale, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2019, Arts C233, 1-3pm:: Chair Carl Griffin  
<https://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/people/academic-staff/james-kneale>  
*British life assurance and the imagined geographies of climate and race, 1840-1930*  
ABSTRACT: British life assurance companies insured thousands of travellers and emigrants between 1840 and 1930. Nervous about the dangerous climates in which their customers would find themselves, particularly in the tropics, firms charged them extra for 'foreign residence', attempting to calculate the additional risks of heat and disease and to price them accordingly. While they sought up-to-date information on climate science and medical geography, they possessed other sources of information, including their own data on the mortality of British lives abroad. The maps these companies produced demonstrate that life assurance shaped as well as reflected climatic and medical science. The idea of 'acclimatisation' remained controversial into the twentieth century, for example, sometimes troubling the idea that white lives were fit for empire. These discussions, and the biographies of emigrants assured by these companies, suggest that while assurance might well have played a role in securing the expansion of empire, it could still be haunted by the idea of the 'white man's grave'

ALL WELCOME (Coffee/ Tea and Cake is provided)