

Geographical Fieldwork Grant

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Recipients 2016

● **'University of Glasgow Iceland Expedition'** Martha Thomson (University of Glasgow)

The purpose of this expedition is to continue with the support provided by University of Glasgow for the development of a Nature and Heritage Centre at Skálanes, Iceland. Ten projects will be developed and delivered by a team of six undergraduates. These range from questionnaires on motivations to take part in ecotourism, to soil sampling to determine the benefits of afforestation as a CO₂ sink.

● **'Evaluating the effects of climate change on Svalbard glaciers'** James Linighan (Newcastle University)

The response of four glaciers in Svalbard to climate change will be examined in detail in this project. Data will be collected on the land-terminating glaciers Longyearbreen, Platabreen and Larsbreen, in order to observe the response of melt rates to air temperature, surface debris cover and wind. The calving front of the marine-terminating glacier Tunabreen will be observed over a one month period using time-lapse photography, in order to collect data on iceberg calving. Air and ocean temperatures will be measured to determine their relationship to calving events.

● **'Camera trap survey of Semenawi Bahri protected area, Eritrea'** Essayas Abraha (Forestry and Wildlife Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Eritrea)

Semenawi-Dehubawi Bahri tropical woodland is one of the most biodiverse areas in Eritrea, however very little is known about the mammals found in the region. This project aims to study the composition and distribution of the mammalian species by conducting the first camera trap survey of the area, and build local capacity for conservation by training local rangers in camera trap usage and mammal identification. Publication of the results in international scientific journals and relevant national institutions will help raise awareness about Eritrea's biodiversity.

● **'Bison Investigation in the Boreal Cordillera'** Fingal Loh (University of Cambridge)

In 1986, 34 wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) were re-introduced to Lake Aishihik in the southwest Yukon, Canada. The herd has now grown to about 1,200 (2014 estimate). To examine the impact of bison on successional pathways, this project will assess changes to vegetation in the surrounding region, based upon archived satellite and aerial imagery, and vegetation and scat surveys.

● **'A Microbial Safari: Quantifying Bacteriophage Diversity in Tanzania'** Isabel Frost (University of Oxford)

Phages are the viruses specific to bacteria. Though much is known about the diversity of the macro-organisms with which we co-inhabit this planet, as yet, much of the microscopic world remains a mystery. With the exception of Europe and North America, bacteria, and the viruses that prey on them, have not been widely sampled. We wish to obtain such samples from Tanzania, to investigate their potential for fighting

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bacterial infections. These will be made available to other scientists doing similar research, thus broadening our knowledge of tropical phages.

● **'Madagascar Medical Expedition 2016'** Stephen Spencer (East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust)

This expedition will determine the burden of the parasitic disease schistosomiasis in Madagascar. In 2015, a 94% prevalence of Schistosomiasis was found in six schools in the Marolambo district of Madagascar. This expedition will return to the area to investigate the morbidity of Schistosomiasis in in school-aged children, using questionnaires, bedside tests and child development assessments.

● **'Emerging Geographies of Everyday Life in a Changing Urban Context'** Daniela Schofield (London School of Economics and Political Science)

This project seeks to produce an understanding of daily human interactions in a rapidly changing urban space. The team comprises of four students on the MSc Urbanisation and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Department of Geography and Environment. Whilst each member's focus differs, together they shed light on human geographical realities of everyday life in an understudied, yet increasingly influential, city of the Global South: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This study will use mixed qualitative methods ranging from interviews to focus groups. Findings will be disseminated through individual MSc dissertations and a group report.

● **'Mixed-methods evaluation of the 'Socio Bosque' scheme in Ecuador'** Harriet Wilson (King's College London)

This study will analyse the extent to which social and environmental improvements have been made by the Socio Bosque programme within Napo province, Ecuador. The use of a mixed-methods approach, employing contemporary remote sensing and python technology, ecological measurements, and interview techniques will address the three main research objectives: examining the impacts of the Socio Bosque programme on poverty alleviation in the Napo region, the maintenance of carbon sequestration, and catchment water quality within and outside Socio Bosque lands.

● **'The impacts of Fair Trade Town status on craft workers in Bolgatanga, Ghana'** Jake Stenson (University College London)

This project aims to examine how gaining Fair Trade Town status has impacted the livelihoods of craft workers in Bolgatanga and their experiences and opinions of the Fair Trade Towns movement. This will be done by semi-structured interviews and focus groups with local craft workers. Furthermore, semi-structured interviews will be undertaken with other local actors in the Fair Trade Town movement such as workers at NGO TradeAID and local business ministers. Quantitative analysis will also be used to gauge whether Fair Trade Town status has improved incomes or export levels.

● **'Incognita Patagonia: Exploring the Last Patagonian Icefield'** Evan Miles (Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge)

Incognita Patagonia is a project that combines exploration, scientific research, mapping and climbing. It aims to explore the area of the Cloue Icefield on Hoste Island at the tip of South America, and to traverse the icefield, documenting the peninsula's glaciers and geomorphology. The project will develop a freely available high-quality map of the zone based on satellite imagery and field surveys. Finally, the team will take advantage of the journey to the remote Cloue peninsula to check and maintain the meteorological network established by the late Charlie Porter.

