

Area reference to Social Geography Study Group

Reference:

- [\(1974\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, reference unknown.](#)
- [\(1976\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 8 \(2\), 160.](#)
- [\(1977\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 9 \(2\), 131-132.](#)
- [\(1978\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 10 \(1\), 73.](#)
- [\(1979\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 11 \(1\), 26.](#)
- [\(1980\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 12 \(1\), 92.](#)
- [\(1981\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 13 \(1\), 92.](#)
- [\(1982\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 14 \(1\), 87-88.](#)
- [\(1983\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 15 \(4\), 367-368.](#)
- [\(1984\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 16 \(4\), 351.](#)
- [\(1985\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 17 \(4\), 347-348.](#)
- [\(1986\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 18 \(4\), 345.](#)
- [\(1987\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 19 \(4\), 366.](#)
- [\(1988\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 20 \(4\), 389.](#)
- [\(1989\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 21 \(4\), 451-452.](#)
- [\(1990\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 22 \(4\), 412.](#)
- [\(1991\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 23 \(4\), 395.](#)
- [\(1992\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 24 \(4\), 439.](#)
- [\(1993\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 25 \(4\), 431-432.](#)
- [\(1994\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 26 \(4\), 408-409.](#)
- [\(1995\). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 27 \(4\), 396-297.](#)

Extracts:

(1974). Social Geography Study Group. Area, reference unknown.

Social Geography Study Group

The meeting at Norwich (Area 6 (1974), 1, 61-2) ended with Brian Robson and John Eyles being asked to explore the possibilities of setting up a formal study group. Exploration has been slow and no decision has yet been taken to request formal recognition from the Institute. During the year, though, there was some activity. Brian Goodey and John Carney were co-opted on to the working committee and John Carney, with the assistance of his colleagues of the North East Area Study Team arranged a meeting in Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne, which involved the bringing to gether of academics, government employees and action groups (Area 6 (1974), 3, 161-6). The only other group meeting was that held at this year's annual conference in Oxford. Originally planned as ' Social indicators and geography', the symposium was changed to ' Social aspects of environmental education' to avoid a clash with another study group. The revised programme was organized at late notice by Brian Goodey. After the symposium, it was decided to plan two one-day conferences for the coming year, one for mid-1975 probably on small area approaches to urban problems, and the other for the 1976 annual conference on the allocation of public resources. It was also decided to increase the membership of the committee, which now com prises: John Carney, John Eyles, Brian Goodey, Bridget Leach, Ken Panton, Brian Robson and David Sibley. Those wishing to become part of the working group's mailing system please write, for the present, to John Eyles at Queen Mary College.

John Eyles

(1976). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 8 (2), 160.

Social Geography Group

The newly formalized Social Geography Group has held two meetings in the course of the year, a one-day meeting at City of London Polytechnic in June 1975 on ' Small area approaches to urban problems', and a

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symposium on 'The allocation of public resources' at the annual conference of the IBG in January 1976. The group has continued the practice of inviting as speakers, in addition to academic geographers with a variety of viewpoints (James Anderson, John Giggs, Fred Gray, Ron Johnston, and David Smith), a politician (Geoff Edge MP), academics from outside geography (Bleddyn Davies from the University of Kent, and Bill Williamson from Durham), and community-based workers (Bob Colenutt from North Southwark Community Development Group and Alan Davies from the Community Development Project).

Nevertheless the focus of the group's interest remains ill-defined. Emrys Jones' recent book of Readings in social geography contains his definition: 'social geography involves the understanding of the patterns which arise from the use social groups make of space as they see it, and of the processes involved in making and changing such patterns' (Jones, 1975, p. 7). Also during 1975 we have become increasingly aware of the views of the Union of Socialist Geographers in North America that geographers, as geographers, should be: ' 1. Organizing and working for radical change in our communities, and 2. Developing geographic theory to contribute to revolutionary struggle' (Antipode, 7, 1, p. 86).

Clearly there are conflicting ideas of what we should be doing, which underlie the debates at our meetings; the group provides a forum where immediate or specific issues can be related to basic theoretical questions and perspectives. Concern with deepening our knowledge of the connections and relationships of things is reflected in rejection of narrow definitions of problems which separate the essential unity of phenomena and processes, and ignore the political and economic base of social formations.

Details of future meetings, and offers to convene sessions or to read papers should be sent to the secretary, Bridget Leach, at Thames Polytechnic, London SE18 6PF.

Bridget Leach

(1977). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 9 (2), 131-132.

Social Geography Group

The 1976 spring meeting continued the group's established concern with the inner city, and convenor Peter Williams assembled planners and social scientists as well as geographers at Birmingham's Centre for Urban and Regional Studies to take a critical retrospective look at the Community Development Projects. Inequalities in spatial mobility and accessibility was the theme in the autumn at the Open University, at a meeting organized by Chris Hamnett. Both inner and inter-city transport and the problems of particular groups were discussed by a variety of speakers.

In addition to these one-day conferences on specific topics, the group once again took a general overview at the annual conference in Newcastle, collaborating with David Smith (Queen Mary College) to convene a well-attended session on alternative approaches in human geography. At Hull in 1978 the main contribution of the Social Geography Group will also be directed at a wide audience, a symposium entitled ' Geography, political economy and the state'. There will be an additional smaller discussion on geography and race. A new departure in late 1977 will be an undergraduate meeting in London on 'Ideology and environment '. Social geographers involved in teaching are invited to bring their students to hear a wider range of speakers than would normally be assembled by a single department.

Bridget Leach

(1978). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 10 (1), 73.

Social Geography Study Group

Around a core of members, the social geographers have attracted three different kinds of audience during the last year. At the Annual Conference of the Institute, the Group's symposia gave the opportunity for discussion more general in character than the details of individual research projects. This brought large numbers of geographers whose work is in a variety of fields to look at the role of the state, and the political issues involved in the phenomena of traditional concern to human geographers.

The Spring meeting of the Group on 'Public expenditure cuts' brought another audience, not solely geographical, who wanted to talk about the details of the cuts and the opposition to them. Bristol will also be the venue for the 1978 Spring meeting on ' Land, property and investment ', and we hope to repeat the informal atmosphere for informed discussion.

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In November, the meeting on ' Ideology and environment ' was directed at an undergraduate audience, who came from a number of departments. Doreen Massey (CES), Peter Hall (Reading), Chris Paris (CES) and Trevor Williams (PCL) discussed ideology in regional and urban planning and the use of resources, under the chairman ship of Ron Johnston (Sheffield). While few of the students accepted that the forms of analysis predominating in geography are ideological theories (capitalist ideology) many were prepared to argue and most welcomed the chance to question the conventional models presented in their courses. A meeting with a similar format, entitled ' Uneven development and problem regions ', will be held in Birmingham in November 1978.

Bridget Leach

(1979). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 11 (1), 26.

Social Geography Study Group

Meetings of the Group during 1978 have continued many of the discussions begun in previous years. At the Annual Conference in Hull, large audiences debated political and ideological issues and the role of social or socialist geographers both in the main symposium on 'Geography, political economy and the state' and in a more specific session on ' Racial conflict '.

In April the Group met in Bristol for a one-day conference on ' Land, property and financial investment' which, as has become characteristic of our meetings, attracted many newcomers in addition to a hard core of members. Most of the papers from this meeting have now been made available (Boddy, M. (ed.) (1979) 'Land, finance and property investment', Wking Pap. 2, Sch. Adv. Urban Stud., Univ. of Bristol).

Our second undergraduate conference in November was attended by nearly 150 who reached Lanchester Polytechnic in spite of fog. The theme of ' Uneven development and problem regions ' meant a more focused discussion than at the student meeting last year. It is hoped that the circulation of the papers from these two undergraduate conferences will enable students to grasp the essentials of the present concerns of social geographers grappling with academic traditions in a period of social upheaval. The papers (Anderson, J., Leach, B. and Williams, P. (eds) (1978) New approaches to geography and planning) are available for 75p, or 50p to students and for orders of five or more, from B. Leach, Division of Geography, Thames Polytechnic, London SE1 8 6PF.

Bridget Leach

(1980). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 12 (1), 92.

Social Geography Study Group

Over the year the Social Geography Study Group has held two well attended meetings. The undergraduate session, organized by R. Hudson (Durham) at Manchester on the theme ' Crisis in cities' attracted over 150 students and a further 150 had to be turned away because of lack of space.

The group joined with the Urban Geography Study Group in its first residential meeting at King's College Hall in London. Convened by C. Hamnett (Open University) for the Urban Geography Study Group and S. Bowlby for the Social Geography Study Group, the subject was 'Explanation in urban geography' and attracted some 50 participants.

Another activity of the group has been the compilation by J. Tivers (Surrey) of a register of research interests of its members, which will be circulated shortly.

S. R. Bowlby

(1981). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 13 (1), 92.

Social Geography Study Group

Two main events were held by the Study Group last year, both focusing on the impact of recession. In June a meeting, convened by L. McDowell (OU), was held at King's College in London which unfortunately attracted only a small minority of the study group members despite the immediacy of the issues discussed. In November, the Group's annual undergraduate session, organised by R. Carrick (Huddersfield Polytechnic) at Huddersfield, considered a smaller number of papers on the same theme. The one-day meeting again

proved very successful and almost 100 students attended. A further activity of the Group during the year has been to arrange the publication by Academic Press on behalf of the IBG of a number of papers presented at previous annual conferences. The volume, Social geography and industrial change, will be published during 1981 and is jointly edited by J. Anderson (OU), S. Duncan (LSE) and R. Hudson (Durham). In October a small grant of £100 was awarded to the Group by the Study Groups and Research Committee from its newly-established annual fund of ?2,000, earmarked to encourage study group activities. Our grant will be used to hold a one day meeting in the Spring, provisionally entitled Alternatives to marxist explanation in urban and regional research.

L. McDowell

(1982). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 14 (1), 87-88.

Social Geography Study Group

In a depressing year when research funds were ever more difficult to attract, the number of postgraduate awards severely cut, new posts virtually unheard of and departments staggering under financial cuts, the Committee felt it was essential to put its main effort into encouraging present and future postgraduate students and research workers. The most successful and well received event last year was the undergraduate meeting held, as usual, in November. The theme was ' Energy and social issues' and three papers were followed by lively discussion groups. Between 50 and 60 people attended the meeting, held at the University of Reading and jointly organised by Sophie Bowlby (Reading) and Jo Foord (Kent). A new venture was the post graduate research workshop held at the annual conference in Southampton. Theme papers by research students working within a number of paradigms outlined the problems they faced in integrating theoretical and empirical work in their current research. These were followed by group discussion among an audience split roughly equally between postgraduates and lecturing staff. Attendance was gratifying given the fact that the twin deterrents of inclement weather and the rail go slow had assumed alarming proportions by the final day of the conference.

The Committee's final endeavour to encourage research was a questionnaire circulated during the year designed to elicit the sources of external funding currently being tapped by members. We hoped to identify under-exploited sources but were sadly disappointed. Only 38 replies were received: if truly representative of the present situation surely a salutary reminder of the problems of obtaining finance.

Two other events were organised by the Group during 1981. The usual annual one-day meeting in May was postponed until September in order to plan a weekend residential meeting. However the response to a Spring circular calling for papers and assessing likely attendance was so poor that a one-day meeting in London was organised instead. This was held on 28 September at the Bartlett School, University College, London; the theme ' Limitations of marxist approaches to urban and regional problems ', partial funding being provided by an Institute grant. Despite several interesting papers, including a fascinating juxtaposition of ' Marxism, regionalism, geography and literature ' by John Silk (Reading), attendance was low and discussion limited. Investigation at the annual conference, however, revealed that it was generally lack of finance rather than lack of interest that kept people away. The second event was the module on policy applications of behavioural geography held at Southampton. This was organised in response to the very successful sessions on behavioural geography held the previous year at Leicester. This year, however, attendance was disappointing and at the AGM held immediately afterwards, the numbers dwindled so alarmingly that the Chairman Ray Hudson, was moved to question the very existence of the group in its present form. Such dispondency did not prevail and several new Committee members were duly elected. They resolved, however, to give close attention to the future of the group and its responsiveness to members' interests in the coming year.

Linda McDowell

(1983). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 15 (4), 367-368.

Social Geography Study Group

During the past year the Group organised its regular one-day meeting for undergraduates and a session at the Annual Conference. There was, however, no September conference.

Conferences have been organised for the immediate future. However, suggestions are always welcome for possible future conferences. In addition members of the group are invited to comment upon the group's submission to the IBG research and study group committee concerning research priorities in social geography. A copy of the submission will be circulated with the autumn Newsletter.

David Evans North Staffordshire Polytechnic

(1987). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 19 (4), 366.

Social Geography Study Group

The Study group organised a full programme of conferences during the year, including a residential meeting, an undergraduate conference and two joint sessions at the Annual Conference.

The residential meeting was held on September 5th and 6th at Manchester University on the theme of 'Education and society'. Apart from geographers, papers were given by workers in community relations, education and social policy on problems of educational resource allocation, social and spatial variations in demand and attainment, and policy and politics. The undergraduate conference, on 'Women and geography', was held at Hull University on 12 November. About sixty students participated and lectures were given by Janet Townsend (Durham), Nicky Gregson (Newcastle) and Jane Lewis (Reading). The established format of lectures, discussion groups and plenary session proved successful and the topics provoked a useful debate. At the Annual Conference, joint sessions were held with the Political Geography Study Group on 'The political geography of Thatcher's Britain', and with the Developing Areas Study Group on 'Corruption, informality and illegality in urban life'. Both sessions proved to be of wide interest, beyond the confines of the convening study groups.

The Social Geography Study Group continues to address fundamental social issues, such as sexism, racism and economic inequality, and is enlarging its interest to include broad aspects of modern culture. Collaboration with other groups and individuals in the furtherance of these aims is welcomed.

David Sibley University of Hull

(1988). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 20 (4), 389.

Social and Cultural Geography Study Group

The Study Group organised a full programme of conferences during the year, including a residential meeting, an undergraduate conference and two sessions at the Annual Conference.

In September 1987, Peter Jackson convened a meeting on 'new directions in cultural geography' at University College London, which explored a number of facets of culture (and geography) and attracted participants from other fields as well as geographers from overseas. The tradition of undergraduate conferences organised by the Group was continued with a session in November 1987 on racism at Oxford university, organised by Alisdair Rogers.

A joint session with the Industrial Activity and Area Development Study Group on the theme of North versus South: industrial and social change in Britain, at the Loughborough conference, attracted considerable media interest and demonstrated the importance of concentrating on issues of immediate political concern. A more discrete and possibly more cerebral session at Loughborough dealt with recent trends in social geography.

The Group now embraces social and cultural geography and has a membership with diverse interests. We would welcome suggestions for new joint ventures with other study groups.

David Sibley University of Hull

(1989). Social Geography Study Group. Area, 21 (4), 451-452.

Social and Cultural Geography Study Group

geography'. The project is proving a popular one, and there are plans to produce a joint publication from the conference proceedings.

Aside from the initiative, the Study Group has maintained its usual programme of conferences and conference sessions. In November, the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education hosted the annual undergraduate day conference. It was organised by Caroline Mills, and 60 students from around the region attended workshops in Qualitative Methods in Human Geography. At the Annual Conference, the Study Group organised a day-long session entitled 'Representing the Other: Geography and Ethnology'. Convened by Ali Rogers (Oxford) and Peter Jackson (University College, London), it included speakers from both Britain and the USA and drew large, appreciative audiences. Three of the papers will appear in a special edition of *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.

At the Annual General Meeting, the Study Group decided to enlarge the membership of the Committee in order to increase its activities. The number of members rose from 10 to 14, and the newcomers included Susan Ford (Bolton Institute of Higher Education), Pyrs Gruffudd (Oxford Polytechnic), Peter Jackson (University College, London), Gillian Rose (QMW, London), Philip Sarre (Open University) and Pamela Shurmer-Smith (Portsmouth). Susan Smith (Edinburgh) took over as Chairperson, but will be stepping down in September, as will Ali Rogers, currently Secretary. The new Committee discussed and ratified a revised constitution as required by the Study Group Committee, and responded to its requests for a self-evaluation and medium-term plan for the Study Group.

In addition to the Edinburgh conference, forthcoming meetings include 'Communities of Resistance', a session to be held at the IBG Annual Conference, Swansea, and organised by Steve Pile (Middlesex Polytechnic), and 'Qualitative Methods in Geography', an undergraduate day conference to be held in February at QMW, London organised by Gillian Rose.

Ali Rogers Oxford University

(1992). *Social Geography Study Group*. *Area*, 24 (4), 439.

Social and Cultural Study Group

The Social and Cultural Study Group has had an active and successful year, with three events warranting special attention: a conference held in Edinburgh in September; a session at the IBG's annual conference in January and an undergraduate conference held at QMW, London, in March. The first of these events was the *New Words, New Worlds* conference. The conference's agenda was to debate issues arising from, or left out by, a discussion paper produced by the Study Group's committee over the previous year, entitled 'Delimiting human geography: new social and cultural perspectives'. This paper was itself based on a series of short statements, which were written, discussed and amalgamated through a series of meetings of the Study Group committee. The *New Words, New Worlds* conference brought together about 40 people, many of whom presented papers. A number of postgraduate students attended. Many new perspectives and issues were raised by delegates, drawing from debates around feminism, postmodernism, the self, new world orders, the natural environment, and morality. In fact, so many new issues were raised that it became a little bewildering (to say the least), but these issues undoubtedly demand greater reflection and the event has spawned a whole set of new initiatives. The conference proceedings, which includes a full commentary on how it came about, all the original discussion documents, the papers presented at the conference (and some that were not), discussants' comments, and a set of reflections on the events have been published (copies are available from Chris Philo, Lampeter at a very reasonable price!).

The second event was the session entitled 'Communities of resistance: geography and the new politics of identity' at the 1992 annual conference. The session was convened by Michael Keith (QMW, London) and Steve Pile (Middlesex), it was their intention to facilitate a debate about a series of changes, or new dimensions to, in political subjectivity. However, the different political practices of the new social movements and their critique of the Left and class-based theories and practices, have ensured that mainstream geographical thought has been quarantined from their influence. This session drew together speakers such as Liz Bondi (Edinburgh), George Revill (Oxford Polytechnic), Sue Golding (Toronto), Doreen Massey (Open University), Barnor Hesse (Essex), Ed Soja (UCLA), Cindi Katz (CUNY) and Neil Smith (Rutgers). A discussion module at the end of the session, led by John Solomos (Birkbeck), was vigorous, if not acrimonious in places, but certainly lively. These papers, and additional papers, are to be published by Routledge under the title *Place and the politics of identity*, early in 1993.

Finally, it is important to mention the undergraduate conference organised by Gillian Rose (QMW, London) on the subject of Doing dissertations. This was a very successful event, bringing together almost 50 students from many institutions. They particularly welcomed the chance to meet and discuss their projects with students from other colleges and universities, a lecture on topic choice by Tony Gatrell (Lancaster), and the opportunity to get specialist help through a self-service menu of workshops. More events of this type are planned because it is clear that there is a need for this kind of initiative.

Steve Pile Middlesex University

(1993). *Social Geography Study Group*. Area, 25 (4), 431-432.

Social and Cultural Study Group

Once more, the Social and Cultural Geography Study Group has had an active and successful year. Three events held over the last year deserve special attention, but first some up-dates on two previous initiatives: first, the 'New Words, New Worlds' conference proceedings continue to sell well and has become the centre of some debate; and, secondly, following on from the SCGSG session at the 1992 annual conference, a book entitled *Place and the politics of identity*, edited by Michael Keith (Goldsmiths' College, London) and Steve Pile (Middlesex), will be published by Routledge in August 1993.

The Group was once again heavily involved in the annual conference. One half day session and two whole day sessions were organised on the following themes: 'Popular cultures and communications in the Third World'; 'Popular Cultures and Communications Representing the Third World' (in conjunction with DARG); 'Spaces of Power: historical and contemporary' (jointly organised with HGRG) and 'Spaces of Citizenship' (with POLGSG). The 'Popular Cultures' session, convened by Richard Black (King's College, London), Terry Cannon (Greenwich), Phil Crang (Lampeter) and Dave Matless (Oxford), explored the forms of contact between the 'first world' and the 'third world' as mediated by mass communications. In particular, notions of autonomy were disclosed, along with the problems of censorship and repression; speakers included, Terry Cannon (Greenwich); Vivian Schelling (East London); Catherine Boyle (King's College, London); Anders Narman (Gothenberg); Sheena Asthana (Exeter); Colin Clarke (Cambridge); Margaret Byron (King's College, London) and Tony Bebbington.

The 'Spaces of Power' session, convened by Felix Driver (Royal Holloway, London) and Gillian Rose (Edinburgh) drew on the considerable interest in geography in the relationship between spatial forms and regimes of power. A number of sites of power, understood both materially and ideologically, were focused on, these included the domestic, public spaces work places and (post)colonialism; speakers included Susan Ford (Bolton); David Crouch (Anglia); Carol Bryce, Helen Roberts and Susan Smith (Edinburgh); Miles Ogborn (Salford); David Sibley (Hull); Isabel Dyck (University of British Columbia); Phil Crang (Lampeter); Louise Johnson (Deakin); Linda McDowell (Cambridge); Catherine Hall (East London); Derek Gregory (University of British Columbia); Steve Daniels and Catherine Nash (Nottingham) and Nigel Thrift (Bristol).

The 'Spaces of Citizenship' session, convened by Eleonore Kofman (Nottingham Trent); Joe Painter (Durham); Chris Philo (Lampeter) and Steve Pile (Middlesex), looked at the way in which notions of the state also involved complex assumptions about the nature of political identity, focusing particularly on the ways in which notions of citizenship had been mobilised; speakers included Eleonore Kofman (Nottingham Trent); Adrian Kearns (Centre for Housing Research, Glasgow); David Bell (Birmingham); Nick Fyfe (Strathclyde); Susan Smith (Edinburgh); Bob Colenutt (Docklands Consultative Committee); Steve Pile (Middlesex); Graham Smith (Cambridge); Jenny Robinson (Natal) and A J Christopher (Port Elizabeth).

Finally, two other events are worthy of note. First, the summer reading workshop, held at Lampeter. The reading week gathered about 30 people together to discuss pre-circulated articles in small groups. The atmosphere generated led to enlivening and careful discussion of many 'theoretical' and 'concrete' issues being raised by contemporary cultural and social commentators. Secondly, the undergraduate conference organised by David Clarke (Leeds) on the relationship between green issues and geography, speakers included David Harvey (Oxford) and Jacquie Burgess (UCL). This was a very successful event, bringing together 50 students from many institutions.

The SCGSG committee has a commitment to enhancing its programme of activities and meetings and welcomes any suggestions.

Steve Pile Middlesex University

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(1994). *Social Geography Study Group*. Area, 26 (4), 408-409.

Social and Cultural Geography Study Group

As usual, the Social and Cultural Geography Study Group has been very active, organising a series of successful ventures. Before outlining some of the things the group has been up to, it will be helpful to provide up-dates on previous initiatives. First, the 'New Words, New Worlds' conference proceedings continue to sell well and remains the centre of some debate (copies are still available from Chris Philo, Department of Geography, Lampeter). Secondly Pergamon have published *Selling Places: the city as cultural capital, past and present*, which is edited by Gerry Kearns and Chris Philo. Thirdly, Chris Philo is editing a joint publishing initiative with the Child Poverty Action Group, dealing with the social geography of poverty in the United Kingdom, to be published in due course. As part of its continuing programme of publications, the group is currently preparing two other publications: (a) past and current members of the committee are preparing a reader in Social and Cultural Geography and (b) Phil Crang is organising a textbook on urban social geography.

The Group was once again heavily involved in the Annual Conference. One whole day session and two half day sessions were organised on the following themes: 'Picturing Land and Life' (in conjunction with HGSG), 'Current Ideas and Research in Social and Cultural Geography' and 'The English Midlands: geographical perspectives'. The 'Picturing Land and Life' session, convened by Steve Daniels (Nottingham) and James Ryan (Oxford), explored the forms of representation of land and life in visual media. In particular, notions of national and regional identities, photography, the country and the city were discussed, along with more general issues about the history and theory of representation in geographical thought. The 'Current Ideas and Research in Social and Cultural Geography' session, organised by Chris Philo (Lampeter) and Phil Crang (UCL), brought together a wide range of papers exploring new directions in social and cultural geography, including papers on home ownership, state regulation, spatial imaginations, race and environment, fear of crime and the history of modern Chicago. 'The English Midlands: geographical perspectives' module was convened by James Sidaway (Birmingham), Louise Crewe (Nottingham) and Michelle Lowe (Southampton). Papers focused on the 'writing' of regional geographies. The session brought out a sense that places are contested, the continual production of place-based identities and their blending with economic, social, cultural and political geographies.

The Group has also been involved in conference activities outside of the IBG's annual conference. In September 1993, 'The Place of Music' conference gathered together people interested in topics such as music and national identity, musical economies music and landscape, the cultural politics of music, local musical cultures, musical aesthetics and musical politics. Speakers and participants came from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds, including musicologists, anthropologists, geographers, historians, sociologists and musicians, discussing everything from white boys bands such as Take That to the role of mbira music in Zimbabwean national identity. Directly following this conference, the group held a reading meeting QMW, London, organised by Gillian Rose (Edinburgh) and Michael Keith (Goldsmith's College). Participants discussed papers by Patricia White, William Cronin, Kristen Hastrup, Edward Said, Mary Louise Pratt and Donna Haraway. The Group's annual undergraduate conference was held in Portsmouth and organised by Pam Shurmer-Smith (Portsmouth), Phil Crang (UCL) and Chris Philo (Lampeter), with sponsorship from the Faculty of Environmental Studies at Portsmouth University. About 120 students from 12 different institutions attended the meeting on postmodern geographies, whose key note speakers were Nigel Thrift (Bristol) and Doreen Massey (Open University). Finally, Gillian Rose (Edinburgh) organised a day meeting on 'New Theoretical Directions in Social and Cultural Geography' with the help of Gill Valentine (Sheffield). Participants discussed pre-circulated papers, after brief presentations by the authors, which raised issues about representation, iconography, methodology, transgression and subjectivity. All these events proved highly successful and rewarding.

Finally, it should be added that the committee spent a great deal of time discussing the takeover of the IBG by the RGS. A number of detailed criticisms were produced both individually and collectively by the committee and these can be found in the committee's minutes and in the former IBG's and SCGSG's newsletters. Broadly, the committee's position has been one of opposition to the merger. The SCGSG committee has a commitment to enhancing its programme of activities and meetings and welcomes any suggestions.

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(1995). *Social Geography Study Group*. *Area*, 27 (4), 396-297.

Social and Cultural Geography Study Group

During the 1994-5 year the Social and Cultural and Geography Study Group has been typically active, organising a series of successful ventures. However, before detailing these, it is also worthwhile signalling how previous initiatives have been progressed. A joint publishing initiative with the Child Poverty Action Group, on the social geographies of poverty in the United Kingdom and organised and edited by Chris Philo (Lampeter) on behalf of the group, is now completed and the resulting book is on the point of publication. Another strand in the group's continuing programme of publications, an introductory A-level and first-year undergraduate text book on the social geographies of the western city, has been contracted for publication with Cambridge University Press' Update Series. Edited by Philip Crang (UCL) on behalf of the group, and featuring contributions from Mark Goodwin (Aberystwyth), Mike Keith (Goldsmith's College, London), Michelle Lowe (Southampton), Jon May (Sussex), John McKendrick (Manchester), Ali Rogers (Oxford), Gillian Rose (Edinburgh), David Sibley (Hull), and Gill Valentine (Sheffield), the book will provide an exciting and innovative introduction to work being done by social geographers in a first-world urban context. The manuscript will be completed by Spring 1996, with the aim of publication later in the year.

The Group was once again heavily involved in the annual conference. A full day session was organised by Peter Jackson (Sheffield) and Ali Rogers (Oxford) on the theme of 'Relevance, Policy and Social Injustice'. Returning to these themes more than twenty years after they were initially made central to the geographical agenda, this session examined questions of social justice in terms of theory, practice and empirical research and drew a large and interested audience. An excellent talk from Laura Pulido (Southern California) was facilitated by her award of Young Research Worker status and a grant from the Study Group. A further half day session was organised by Philip Crang (UCL), Catherine Nash (Lampeter) and Gillian Rose (Edinburgh) on the theme of 'A/Moral Geographies'. Papers considered both the construction of 'moral geographies' as part of the regulation of social life, and the relations between the academic discipline of Geography and questions of morality. Papers on the latter theme highlighted intriguing parallels and differences with the discussions of social justice and relevance that took place in our full day session. Another half day session was convened by David Crouch (Anglia) and Pam Shurmer-Smith (Portsmouth) on the theme of 'Ethnography and Iconography in Geographical Understanding: New Directions'. Papers examined the coming together of iconographic and ethnographic research approaches in analyses of the connections between geographical knowledges and cultural identities in a variety of substantive settings.

The Group has also been involved in organising activities beyond the Annual Conference. A third 'annual' reading meeting was organised by Steve Pile (Open University) and Philip Crang (UCL), and held at the Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, in November 1994. Nearly forty group members gathered for a weekend of paper readings, video viewings, friendly discussions, and, being the first week of the National Lottery, financial disappointments. There was a very healthy postgraduate presence at the meeting, perhaps reflecting the success of social and cultural geography in setting many of the new agendas within human geography more generally. Following the success of the event, a fourth annual reading meeting is already being organised for the coming autumn by David Matless (Nottingham) and Steve Pile (Open University). The Group also sponsored a Symposium on Computing and Qualitative Geography, organised by Mike Crang and Joe Painter (both Durham), and held at Durham in July 1995. This provided a forum both for the discussion of the role of computing in qualitative data analysis and representation, and for trying-out a number of software packages. Unfortunately, plans for an undergraduate conference on Feminist Geographies were scuppered by the increasing complexities of term times and suitable venues, but the Group remains committed to organising events for undergraduates in future years. Overall, the Group has therefore had an intellectually vibrant and organisationally active year. I would like to convey my thanks, on behalf of the Group, to all those who have run events, and also to Chris Philo (Lampeter) and Pam Shurmer-Smith (Portsmouth) as newsletter editors and membership secretaries, to James Ryan (Royal Holloway, London) as treasurer, and to Steve Pile (Open University) as chair of the Group. The Committee has already planned an exciting programme of future activities, and I look forward to reporting on them in due course.

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