

# 'Be Inspired' Talk

Royal  
Geographical  
Society  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

- Jean de Pomereu:
- The Emergence of 'Inlandsis'
- 23 January 2012 2.30-4.00pm



150 years ago, the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets or *Inlandsis* were cartographic voids that resided outside of our knowledge and vision – all scientists could do was imagine. Using the RGS-IBG archives as his primary source, Jean de Pomereu's research focuses on how these blanks on the map have since been explored.

In his *'Be Inspired'* talk, Jean considers the key role played by Captain Scott in the early exploration of ice sheets. In 1903, Scott and two companions became the first to venture onto the East Antarctic ice sheet, penetrating 200 miles inland and providing an early glimpse of its desolate, largely featureless topography. Jean will argue that although it is often overlooked in favour of his later South Pole journey, this remains in many ways Scott's most important and courageous exploratory feat. A journey that not only opened the way for our future exploration of ice sheets, but one to which we can trace back our contemporary understanding of their importance as central components of the Earth System: climate archives, determinants of global sea level, subject and driver of global environmental change.

**Jean de Pomereu** has a professional background which spans academic research, journalism, and fine art photography, all linked to Antarctica. Jean holds a Masters Degree from the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge and is currently the recipient of a Doctoral Collaborative Research Grant awarded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board, the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and the University of Exeter.

**Ticket Information:** free to RGS-IBG members, students and academic users. Non-members: £5, payable in advance – pre-booking required. **Venue:** Education Centre, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. **To book a place:** ☎ Telephone +44 (0)20 7591 3044 or ✉ email [showcase@rgs.org](mailto:showcase@rgs.org)

For information on other Scott-related exhibitions, talks and showcases at the Society please visit: [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org)

Images: 'Main Western party setting out on the march to the Pole, 1901-04' and 'Cover of the South Polar Times, August 1903' both © RGS-IBG