Tom Allen

Tom Allen has been a full-time traveller, writer and filmmaker for 12 years. He has undertaken adventurous journeys on 5 continents and now describes himself reluctantly on his social media profiles as a 'self-unemployed creative explorer'. He runs a long-established adventure cycling website at tomsbiketrip.com, has published three feature-length adventure films (Janapar, Karun and Nowhere Is A Place) and five travel books. In 2016 he led the RGS-IBG supported Land Rover Bursary expedition to explore and map the first long-distance hiking trail across the Caucasus. The Transcaucasian Trail, as it is now known, has since evolved into a massive international development project he estimates will take a good decade or so to complete. More at transcaucasiantrail.org.

*Katie Arnold*

Katie Arnold is a freelance journalist and television producer. She made her first documentary in 2013, after buying a cheap DSLR camera and moving to a small Palestinian village. Since then, she has worked with many of the top international broadcasters - reporting on human rights, humanitarian and environmental issues across Asia. As the recipient of this year's Neville Shulman Challenge Award, Katie travelled the length of Kyrgyzstan's Naryn river researching the relationship between water security and inter-communal conflict.

*Charlotte Austwick*

Charlotte Austwick is an Anthropologist, Archaeologist and Film-maker. This year she will be returning to the jungles of Central America, living and filming in a Qetchi and Mopan Mayan community to create educational resources in their native language and deliver oral hygiene workshops. Charlotte is also an alumni of the Screenskills Film Camera trainee scheme and alongside jobs in the feature film industry, works as an independent camera person and director on expeditions. In her spare time Charlotte is a voluntary International Search and Rescue trainee technician and enjoys exploring under the earth’s surface. Upcoming expeditions include the ‘Voices of the Maya’ and Kota Mama XI Bolivian expedition.
Philip Avery
bohunttrust.co.uk, @MrPhilAvery
Phil Avery is Director of Education for Bohunt Education Trust, but he’s as likely to be found up a hill with students as he is in the classroom. Phil has organised student expeditions focused on scientific fieldwork, meaningful journeys and the development of character to a variety of remote locations including Greenland and Azerbaijan. He is currently planning the 2021 expeditions and an outdoor leader programme for Sixth Formers. He has also taken part in a number of teacher expeditions (Belarus, Iceland, South Africa and Antarctica), is a Mountain and Mountain Bike Leader, loves cycle touring and runs an Outdoor Programme that sees over 800 students a year spend two or more nights under canvas. He and his school believe that fieldwork and the outdoors are central to student development.

Oliver Beardon
www.sailbritain.org, @SailBritainCP, @sailbritain
Oliver is the founder of Sail Britain, an interdisciplinary arts, sailing and ocean research project. He has a particular interest in cross disciplinary working in a research and expedition environment, and the collaborative social space of a sailing vessel. With Sail Britain, he has undertaken trips ranging from ocean microplastics research to exploring the cultural heritage and identity of remote islands. Oliver holds a commercially endorsed Yachtmaster ticket and has sailed extensively around the UK, the Baltic, Norway and the Mediterranean but is especially drawn to the wild outlying fringes of Scotland. He has long experience leading groups of young people on expeditions, and is RYA Instructor.

Anna Blackwell
Anna Blackwell is an adventurer, speaker, writer and photographer. In September, Anna returned from a 1,000km solo trek across Arctic and Northern Scandinavia. In 2018, she completed a 5-month, 4,000km kayaking expedition with Kate Culverwell in which they tandem kayaked from London to the Black Sea in Romania. Anna is currently studying towards an MSc in Environment and Human Health at the University of Exeter Medical School.

James Borrell
jamesborrell.com, @James_Borrell, @james_borrell
Dr James Borrell is a conservation biologist with research interests ranging from tropical ecology and distribution modelling to evolutionary genomics. He has been involved with expeditions and fieldwork in a diverse range of environments, including Lapland, Botswana, Oman, Borneo, Peru, South Africa and Madagascar. James is currently a research fellow at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, working on unusual and neglected tropical crops in the Ethiopian Highlands. James believes passionately in adventure with purpose, and the benefits of undergraduate expeditions and exploration for developing the next generation of pioneering conservationists.

James Borrell
Susannah Cass

Dr Susannah Cass is a scientist with itchy feet. An ecologist with interests in biodiversity, conservation, citizen science and science communication; she also holds a number of obscure ocean rowing world records for crossings of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Susannah's PhD looked at biodiversity in European agriculture but she is always in search of the next big adventure, such as cycling the East coast of Brazil, or rowing a traditional boat from Ireland to Wales. Susannah's main passion is combing adventure with science, and she was Chief Scientist for the British Exploring Society's 2017 Amazon Expedition. Talk to her about research, citizen science, rowing, expeditions.

Tropical Forest Expeditions Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon)

Luce Choules

Luce is a UK-based itinerant trans-disciplinary artist, operating from field centres in France and Spain, and working internationally. Her praxis monitors Earth systems, accelerated change and social movement to investigate material and immaterial forms of transformation and transportation. She makes collapsing and adaptive environments that test and signal our capacity to be agile. Luce has exhibited and performed widely through individual and group shows and events in the UK, Europe, Australia and USA. She is supported in her work and activities through a range of ecologic residencies and sociocultural commissions for public projects funded by arts councils, regional arts organisations, cultural institutions, foundations and environmental agencies. She founded and coordinates the itinerant artist network TSOEG.org

Sunday speaker / Artists in the Field

Will Close-Ash

Will runs Mountain Energy with his wife, Naomi. He started out like most people, taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award as a student and his love for the mountains grew from there. As a volunteer with the Air Cadets, he had the chance to run many UK and overseas expeditions and running his own mountaineering company was the next logical step. He has led groups on some of the classic Alpine long distance treks including the Tour of Mont Blanc and the walkers Haute Route. Will has climbed several Alpine Peaks up to AD and travelled through Peru, Bolivia, Lesotho, South Africa and Morocco. His highest personal summit to date was a dormant volcano in Bolivia called Lincancubur which sits at 5960m.

Mountain & Trekking Expeditions Panel Chair (Saturday Afternoon)

Peter Coals

Peter Coals is a conservation biologist with varied research interests, including large carnivores, rhinos, small mammals, and desert plants. As an anti-poaching officer he has been involved in the reactive protection of large, valuable African species of rhinoceros and elephant. He has trained wildlife and anti-poaching rangers across a range of global settings. Most recently he was involved in the Rangers Without Borders Eurasia project seeking to explore rangers’ perceptions of transboundary cooperation and assess welfare conditions for rangers. His current research with the Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) investigates the international trade in lion bones and parts. He is a member of the African Lion Working Group and a visiting researcher at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He also continues to plan and advise expeditions in search of his first love; the poorly known and enigmatic elephant-shrews or sengis.

Biological & Natural Sciences Workshop Panel Chair (Sunday Morning)
Kate Culverwell

Kate Culverwell is currently a second year undergraduate at University of Oxford studying Music. Before starting her degree, Kate completed a 5-month, 4,000km tandem kayaking expedition with Anna Blackwell, going from London to the Black Sea in Romania. Alongside her music, Kate is also Captain of Rowing for Oriel College and on committee for the Oxford University Exploration Club. She looks forward to further combining her passion for music and adventure during and beyond her studies.

Shara Dillon

Born and raised in rural Zimbabwe and South Africa, Shara is a teacher with a deep love for remote African wilderness, and has a growing interest in conservation. In 2016 she paddled Lake Tanganyika in East Africa, the longest lake in the world, making her the first woman to complete this journey by non-motorised transportation. Over the past few years, her adventures have taken her through the Canadian wilderness, up Kilimanjaro, through Iceland and into the Jordanian desert of Wadi Rum where she spent time with the Bedouin. In 2013 she spent six months driving rural backroads solo from Kenya to Cape Town. At present, alongside her teaching career, Shara is assisting the Northern Rangelands Trust with strategies to curb tribal and human-wildlife conflict in Northern Kenya.

Vladimir Donkov

Vlad Donkov is an outdoor photographer, passionate about the remote Polar areas. When he was just 23, he ventured on a 2-month long unsupported solo expedition in Greenland. He did not meet anyone for a month, and during that time camped on an exposed mountain ridge for weeks to capture a single shot. Since then, he has worked for clients such as National Geographic, Hasselblad, Volvo, Ogilvy, Outdoor Photography magazine and the Royal Embassy of Norway. He loves teaching courses and sharing his love for the great outdoors.

Greg Dow

Greg Dow has worked in research funding for 16 years, including work in the grants office for the Royal Geographical Society, as well as the Royal Society, and both the Liverpool and London Schools of Tropical Medicine. His particular expertise is European funding, having lived and worked in Brussels in an EU funding advisory role. He currently works as a Research Manager at the School of Medicine and Dentistry at Queen Mary University of London, guiding scientists through the process of successfully applying to grants. He studied Geography at University of Reading and is a keen hiker and runner. (2018)
Eleanor Drinkwater
@E_Drinkwater
Eleanor Drinkwater is an entomologist in the final year of her PhD at the University of York. Eleanor is passionate about understanding invertebrate behaviour and developing an ethical framework for the sustainable use and collection of invertebrates. These interests have led her to work both in the UK and further afield in Peru, Australia, Honduras and French Guiana. In 2018 Eleanor led an expedition to track the elusive titan beetle, and raise awareness about the international trade in invertebrates. Eleanor is also committed to science communication and has appeared on radio shows and podcasts including the Naked Scientists and Scientific American. She helped to co-found an entomophagy science festival group, and enjoys running bug-hunting and education events with community groups and schools.

Biological & Natural Sciences Workshop Panel (Sunday Morning)

James Dyer
www.james-dyer.org
James is an adventurer, expedition leader, safety advisor and outdoor education practitioner. With a career spanning over 20 years, he has participated in and led expeditions all over the globe, covering all environments from the highest mountains, to the frozen arctic, spending time with indigenous peoples in the jungles of Borneo and the bush of Tanzania, climbing into the canopy of the Peruvian Amazon, canoeing rivers deep in Northern Canada and trekking across the deserts of the Middle East. Recently returned from a solo cycling expedition through Europe, following the trail of 3rd Century General Hannibal and his elephants. From 2011- 2016 he was the Operation Manager at the British Exploring Society, developing, designing and delivering educational youth development expeditions to remote and wilderness environments.

Tropical Forest Expeditions Workshop Panel Chair (Saturday Afternoon)

Stephen Fabes
cyclingthe6.com @cyclingthe6 facebook.com/Cyclingthe6/
Stephen Fabes is an A&E doctor, writer, speaker, runner and adventure cyclist. Like most decisions of great consequence, his plan to cycle around the world was made in a pub, beer in one hand, mini-atlas in the other. Stephen spent six years riding across 75 countries and six continents, clocking up 86,209 km - a distance equivalent to more than twice around the earth. En route he visited medical projects, many remote, serving marginalised people - from orthopaedic wards in Afghanistan to floating medical clinics on the Tonle Sap and mobile clinics serving nomads in Turkana, Kenya. His writing on health and travel has appeared in The Guardian, The Telegraph, BBC Travel, CNN, Geographical, Adventure Travel, Backpacker and Wild among others. He blogs at www.cyclingthe6.com and his first book, Signs of Life, will be published by Profile next summer.

Cycle Journeys Workshop Panel Chair (Saturday Afternoon)

Feral Practice (Fiona MacDonald)
http://feralpractice.com/ @feralpractice
Fiona works with human and nonhuman beings as Feral Practice to create art projects and interdisciplinary events that develop ethical and imaginative connection across species boundaries. They draw on scientific and subjective knowledge to explore diverse aesthetics and suggest spaces of not knowing nonhumans. Recent projects Ask Somerset’s Plants: Somerset Art Weeks 2019. Mycorrhizal Meditation: Bánkitó Fesztivál, Taipei Biennale, Furtherfield, The Bluecoat. Ask the Wild: Whitechapel Gallery, Tate St Ives, Turner Contemporary, Whitstable Biennale 2017-18.

Artists In The Field Workshop Panel (Sunday Afternoon)
Amy Fitzmaurice

Amy Fitzmaurice is a Conservation Scholar at Chester Zoo and DPhil student WildCRU Oxford University researching human-felid conflict in Nepal. She is a consultant at Chester Zoo assisting with the management and development of projects in South Asia. She assists with developing ZSL’s Camera Trap Data Analysis Tool and Image Processor and has experience running fieldwork projects in Borneo, Sierra Leone, Namibia, Cuba, Nepal and the UK. Amy co-runs camera trapping workshops for the RGS-IBG, ZSL and WildCru. She is trained as a conservation scientist in both social science and ecological science, and believes that conservation success must involve local people.

Rob & Harriet Fraser

Harriet and Rob collaborate through their practice somewhere-nowhere, bringing more than three decades of experience of writing, photography and research to their exploration of the nature and culture of place. They combine walking practice with field research and rigorous interviews to enquire into, and share, multiple elements that shape rural landscapes. They work alongside environmental scientists, land managers and farmers, and curate artful conversations in outdoor settings about the challenges of collective, positive change.

Sandra Fruebing

Sandra is a social designer whose work is informed by cultural observation and carried out through direct collaborations with the general public. Her process makes use of community engagement through educational and performative workshops where she focuses on relinquishing sole authorship of the produced work. Her current research focuses on storytelling as a means to develop community led design practices. Her recent collaboration with the Ababda craftswomen in Southern Egypt combined sustainable leather crafts with environmental storytelling. In addition to her independent design practice she is a Lecturer in Design at Goldsmiths University and holds an MA in Design Products from the Royal College of Art.

Anthony Goddard

Anthony Goddard is the founder of ZeroSixZero, where he produces live, interactive, bespoke expedition maps to help adventurers tell their stories. Anthony came into the expedition mapping world through Ben Saunders’ 2013-2014 Scott Expedition, where he provided mapping and technical expertise to the record setting expedition. Since then he has worked with Sarah Outen, Sean Conway, Dave Cornthwaite, Laura Kennington, Anna McNuff, Al Humphreys, James Ketchell and over 100 adventurers to map polar, ocean and land expeditions. When not building maps, he is bike-packing, pack-rafting, getting cold, and sometimes all three at once.
Stuart Goring
Stuart grew up as an expat in Saudi Arabia. He has hiked the Skeleton Coast solo, wandered the jungles of Borneo amongst the last nomadic Penan, and tracked big game through the Kalahari with the Ju/'hoansi. He has accumulated an eclectic array of qualifications and experience; he has managed an African game reserve, been the curator of the San Cultural History Museum in Botswana, organised remote healthcare logistics for NGO’s in South East Asia, trained anti-tiger poaching patrols in Malaysia and acted as a Researcher/fixer for the BBC. He is qualified Survival Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician, Motor Vehicle Mechanic, Trimix diver, Divemaster, Powerboat Skipper, Expedition Leader and Swift Water Rescue Technician.

Joe Grabowski
Joe is the founder of the Canadian non-profit Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants, bringing science, exploration, conservation and adventure into classrooms across North America through virtual guest speakers and field trips. Since September 2015, we've hosted over 1,000 live Google Hangout events connecting hundreds of thousands of students with scientists and explorers from over 50 countries. Send textbook-sized satellite BGAN units around the world with scientists and explorers allowing them to broadcast into classrooms from the most remote regions of the planet.

Claire Grogan
Claire is an Emergency Medicine doctor with a passion for expedition and remote medicine. She has provided medical support for expeditions in a variety of environments, but her heart lies in the polar regions. Claire is helping set up the Global Polar & Altitude Metabolic Research Registry at the Human Metabolic Research Unit and the University of Coventry. In 2019, she successfully crossed the Greenland Ice Cap. She has also been part of expeditions in the Trollheim Mountains of North West Svalbard, and has also crossed Finnmark and Hardanger Plateaus in Norway. As well as working as a Ship’s Doctor in the Arctic, Claire was the Medical Officer for the Weddell Sea Expedition in Antarctica this year, which gathered scientific data and also searched Shackleton’s lost ship Endurance.

Jonathan Hanson
Jonathan Hanson’s exploration experience encompasses land and sea from Baja, Mexico to the Beaufort Sea, from the Rift Valley to the Namib Desert, and modes of transportation from sea kayaks to sailboats to bicycles to Land Cruisers and Land Rovers. He has traveled among and worked with cultures as diverse as the Seri Indians and the Himba, the Inuit and the Maasai. Jonathan has written for a score of magazines including Outside, National Geographic Adventure, Nature Conservancy, and Global Adventure, and has authored and co-authored with Roseann a dozen books. Jonathan has taught tracking, natural history writing, 4WD techniques, and other subjects for many conservation and government organizations.
Roseann Hanson

Roseann Hanson is a naturalist, artist, and explorer who has been keeping science-based nature and field notes journals for 40 years. She studied journalism and ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona, and has worked in the American Southwest, Mexico, and East Africa as a conservationist, naturalist, and writer. Roseann is a lapidary, metalsmith, and watercolor artist, and for several years she has worked on significant cultural heritage projects, including long-term work with the South Rift Land Owner’s Association – an all-Maasai cultural preservation group. Currently she is coordinator for the trans-disciplinary Art & Science Program at the 115-year-old Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill, part of the University of Arizona College of Science. Through the Desert Lab and other institutions she teaches nature writing and nature journaling and field notes for biologists.

Adventure With Purpose Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon) Exhibiting Artist

Martin Hartley

One of the world’s leading expedition and adventure travel photographers, Martin Hartley specialises in documenting the most inaccessible places on earth. He has documented 20 unique polar assignments and is one of the only professional photographers to have crossed the Arctic Ocean on foot and with dogs (Adventure Ecology Top of the World Trans-Arctic Expedition 2006, Catlin Arctic Survey 2009 and 2010). His first book Face to Face: Polar Portraits was published in collaboration with the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Polar & Arctic Environments Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon) and Photography Workshop Panel (Sunday Afternoon)

Merlin Hetherington

Merlin’s pursuit of medicine is influenced by a desire to improve quality of life and reduce unnecessary suffering in the world. His dissertation looked at tools for strengthening eye-care provision. Momentum grew behind a project to equip and train people throughout Africa in the use of an innovative diagnostic tool, called the “Arclight”. Merlin and his friend, Alex, and decided to use cycling as their mode of transport; as it was cheaper and carbon neutral. During 10,000km every plan can go awry, but for adventure enthusiasts this can also bring great excitement. During their 8-month trip Alex and Merlin trained nearly one thousand health workers in ten different countries. Merlin is a University of St Andrews graduate and is currently completing his medical degree at St Bartholomew’s and the Royal London Medical School.

Cycle Journeys Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon)

Adam Hill

Adam is a doctor at The Royal Cornwall Hospital who has recently returned from an 80-day expedition to the heart of the Great Pacific Garbage patch. The expedition was centred around transatlantic swimmer Ben Lecomte as he sought to raise awareness surrounding oceanic plastic accumulation. Through scientifically guided transects the team completed the first trans-pacific microplastic data set, while documenting the interaction between both the plastic and the surrounding marine life. Adam is passionate about ocean advocacy; and wants to utilise his background as a published photographer to help educate and inform.

Oceans & Marine Projects Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon)
Cathy Hobbs
@cathyhobbs123
Cathy Hobbs is a marine biologist currently doing her research masters at Exeter University. Although researching plastic movement through the benthic ecosystem at present, Cathy recently published the genetics work highlighting endangered shark species sold at UK fish and chip shops which you may have seen on the news. Her love of expedition and conservation has seen her involved in fieldwork in the Bahamas and more recently a month spent on the Galapagos Islands. Cathy feels strongly that only through relaying scientific findings back to the public, one is able to make contributions to tangible marine conservation actions.

Oceans & Marine Projects Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon)

Annabel Illingworth
@annabelilli
Annabel Illingworth is a freelance Creative Director and Strategist, specialising in luxury travel and sustainability. She also founded a small consultancy, See Change, to focus on the big picture and international legacy. Annabel loves storytelling through photography, film and writing but, like us all, wants to be part of the action too. She has been involved in driving the plastic revolution since lending a hand at the UK launch of A Plastic Ocean; helped establish a marine protected area in French Polynesia alongside diving and filming humpback whales; and found herself up close and personal with a giant yet gentle silverback gorilla. Last year, she played a key part in rebranding Rwanda on behalf of its government, shifting the narrative away from the genocide and towards responsible tourism and technology.

Oceans & Marine Projects Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon)

Maryam Jamilah
www.usunapauretraced.com
Maryam is a second year biologist at Oxford University, with a particular interest in zoology and animal behaviour. Born and raised in Malaysia, Maryam loves being outdoors and wishes to work in the conservation field in the future. She had prior experience in green and humpback turtle conservation - doing tasks such as tagging and population monitoring, in-situ conservation and relocation of turtle eggs, as well as collecting scientific data on nesting behaviours at Terengganu, Malaysia. Through this expedition she hopes to help increase awareness on the importance of conservation especially to the local population. She was a member of the Oxford University Usun Apau Retraced expedition.

Charlie Jaques
www.tourdeforceuk.com
Charlie or CJ as he is known is a true wandering spirit, 12 fully stamped passports and counting. He has hitched around South America and travelled the length and breadth of the USA. He then spent 15 years driving quite literally to the ends of the earth on pretty much every continent as an expedition leader for Dragoman. A natural linguist, he speaks 6 languages (German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic). He is also a qualified commercial yacht skipper with various trans-Atlantic crossings under his belt. Now based in the UK, he divides his time between driver-guiding and training journalists and NGO's before they head out to more hostile environments.

Route Planning For Overland Journeys Workshop Panel (Sunday Morning)
Bethan John

voicesontheroadfilm.com

Bethan is a freelance multimedia journalist, who specialises in biodiversity conservation and social justice. She's been published in leading international news outlets, such as Mongabay and The Ecologist, reporting on the complex social, economic and environmental issues facing marginalised communities living in some of the most biodiverse places on Earth. Last year, she co-led an expedition to the Peruvian Amazon to produce a documentary - Voices on the Road - about the impact of infrastructure development on protected areas and indigenous communities. It has been Officially Selected for international film festivals and will be screened across the UK soon.

-writing Workshop Panel (Sunday Afternoon)

Scotty Johnson

www.ExploreWhatMatters.com  @scotty_ewm  @scotty_ewm

Scotty is a behavioural coach, speaker and consultant working with leaders and organisations to create a brighter future. He takes people into inspirational outdoor settings to explore what matters in the areas of connection, purpose and well-being. With a background in wilderness expeditions, he combines thinking from ancient philosophy, psychology research and reflective practice. His latest work focuses on helping organisations create courageous cultures for a more sustainable future. Scotty is a commercial yachtmaster and a visiting teaching fellow at the Cranfield School of Management.

-speaker (Saturday)

Matthew Jones

https://www.usunapauretraced.com/

Matt was the leader of the Oxford University Usun Apau Retraced Expedition, spending three weeks in one of the most remote corners of Borneo's rainforest. Currently in his third year of studying Geography, Matt has a passion for conservation research. Keen to pursue this as a career, he is currently carrying out a camera trap internship with WildCRU and is looking for more opportunities once his degree is complete.

-speaker and Biological Sciences research workshop (Sunday morning)

Samuel Jones

@samuel_ei_jones

Sam Jones is an ornithologist who has recently completed his PhD at Royal Holloway as part of the London NERC doctoral training partnership. A devoted believer in the importance of field research, he has worked extensively throughout the tropics undertaking ornithological work on remote biodiversity assessment expeditions and studying the basic ecology of little-known and threatened bird species. Sam was the 2016 recipient of the Neville Shulman Challenge award, co-leading the first biological assessment of the Njesi Plateau in northern Mozambique’s Niassa province. Sam is dedicated to the communication of natural history, producing recent content for the BBC Natural History Unit for BBC Radio 4 and Scientific American.

-biological & Natural Sciences Workshop Panel (Sunday Morning)
Stephen Jones

antarctic-logistics.com    @AntarcticSteve

Steve is the Expeditions Manager for Antarctic Logistics & Expeditions LLC, the company that flies nearly all expeditions and mountaineers into Antarctica. He works with expeditions planning ventures to Antarctica from first inquiry to departure. He has worked in Antarctica for ten summer seasons and for six of those he was the manager of the ALE base. He has been on 40 expeditions to mountains, jungle, polar regions and leading youth expeditions. He has organised and lead Arctic expeditions to Alaska, Arctic Canada, Greenland, Spitsbergen and Last Degree expeditions to the North Pole. He was a Country Director for Raleigh International for seven years in South-East Asia, Africa, Central and South America. He is an expert on polar expedition planning and the safety management of remote expeditions.

Jenny Kinnear

@mjkinnear

Jenny has worked in education and research for 7 years. She’s led projects and secured grants with British Council, John Muir Trust, UNESCO, British Exploring and Sail Britain, creating strong teams and communities who make art and environmental connections. She works as a SENco in Edinburgh on communication and well-being projects, having previously taught and got headlice in Argentina, Spain, Egypt, and London. Passionate about languages, sustainability, getting into water and lifelong learning, she's happy to connect you with the great people at Explore to support your ideas and adventures.

Laura Kor

Laura is an ecologist passionate about working with people and wildlife for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Her roles in ecological consultancy and academia have involved a range of projects both in the UK and around the world. This includes investigating saiga antelope conservation in Uzbekistan, studying beetle communities in Honduras and investigating ecosystem services in European agriculture. Most recently, Laura co-led an expedition to track the elusive titan beetle in French Guiana, raising awareness about the international trade in invertebrates. Laura is currently undertaking a PhD funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.

Aga Kreglewska

missingmaps.org    @nomadicaga

Aga is a Data Scientist with an experience of using open data for humanitarian projects. She’s an active member of Missing Maps and Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT): two initiatives that use geospatial data for disaster response and disaster risk reduction. In her day job at Deliveroo she translates location data into business insights using the latest technology.
Natalie Lewis

@natalielewisv  @project_madagascar

Natalie Lewis is a third year zoology student studying in Cornwall at the University of Exeter with an interest in conservation involving local communities. Over the summer she conducted a 6 week research project in an un-surveyed part of the Madagascar rainforest along with a team of University bioscience and wildlife photography students. This was done in collaboration with a small local NGO called DBCAM. The project included preliminary biodiversity surveys of the area and talking to local schools and communities about their involvement and dependence on the rainforest.

Biological & Natural Sciences Workshop Panel (Sunday Morning)

Lydia Mason

Dr Lydia Mason’s first jungle expedition over 20 years ago fostered a lifelong passion for Tropical forests leading her to study for an MSc in Environmental Change and Management followed by a PhD in Geography from Oxford University. Alongside a career as a strategy consultant and fiction editor, she has led expeditions in Asia, Africa and across the Americas. Lydia ran the Trekforce Expedition Leader Training programme in Belize, instructing and assessing trainee expedition leaders across a range of disciplines such as navigation, river crossings, logistics & budgets, casualty evacuation & incident management, cave rescue and jungle survival. Most recently, Lydia has mentored trainee leaders for the British Exploring Society in the Peruvian Amazon, focusing on developing reflective practice and personal goal setting alongside trekking, water safety and scientific exploration.

Tropical Forest Expeditions Workshop (Saturday Afternoon)

Ian McClelland

@turnwild

Ian McClelland is a mountain leader with the energy of a boy scout. Since his early twenties he has nurtured a passion for the Earth’s wild spaces, and in 2015 he set up Turn Wild to share this passion with others. A member of the British Society of International Mountain Leaders, Ian has over a decade of mountaineering experience, and believes that hikers have two key responsibilities in any wilderness: a responsibility to keep themselves safe, and a responsibility to enjoy the beauty of their surroundings. Besides leading treks for his company Turn Wild, Ian is a trustee for a substance abuse charity, a martial arts enthusiast and also helps run the Duke of Edinburgh programme at a local London state school.

Mountain & Trekking Expeditions Workshop (Saturday Afternoon)

Joe McDermott

As a current A-level student and Young People's Representative for the Young Explorers' Trust, Joe has led several expeditions in the UK and abroad. He teamed up with Lancaster University to run a study on team cohesion whilst leading the Tour du Mont Blanc and is currently working alongside British Canoeing to run a project to research and reduce plastic pollution in his local river, the Derwent. Joe has been a keen kayaker for the past five years; coaching Paddle Power groups, leading trips and more recently, frightening himself on white water. He also mountaineers, climbs, skis and dives. In 2019, aged 17, he planned and led an independent expedition to the Balkans, taking a sixth-form team to kayak sections of the Drina, Sava, and Danube rivers to conduct research into their chosen fields.

Mountain & Trekking Expeditions Workshop (Saturday Afternoon)
Speaker (Saturday) & Mountain & Trekking Workshop (Saturday Afternoon)

**Alex McMaster**

https://www.facebook.com/arclight.tandem africa/

A biology and geography student, Alex grew up on the rugged west coast of Ireland where the sea, mountains and forests cultivated his love for the wild. He followed his passion for the sea on sailing expeditions and through his studies in Scotland. It was there that Alex was gifted a tandem bicycle for his birthday by a group of friends. Determining that the roads of Fife had been explored, he and partner in crime, Merlin, set off to cycle through the Spanish Pyrenees equipped with rock climbing gear. The following year they took their cycling endeavors a step further, setting off to cycle the length of Africa. Along the way, the pair delivered training to students in healthcare with an innovative medical device used to diagnose eye and ear disease. They made half the journey by tandem, before being forced to travel on foot through the Tanzanian bush. They completed their journey to South Africa on ElliptiGO bikes.

**Claire McNulty**

@clairemcnulty1

Dr. Claire McNulty is the Senior Director, Europe at the National Geographic Society, with a remit to identify, support and grow the community of National Geographic explorers and grantees in the region. She joined National Geographic in July 2017 and prior to this she was the Global Director of Science for the British Council. She has a degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry from Leeds University, and a PhD in heart development from the Randall Institute, King's College London. She worked as a post-doctoral researcher on neural development in the Netherlands. She has also worked as a part-time senior science policy adviser for the Royal Society, focussing on the Pfizer-Royal Society African Academies Programme. Claire is a former member of the Royal Society’s Public Engagement Committee.

**Tara Mascarenhas**

www.students onice.com

Tara joined the Students on Ice Foundation as the Programme Team Lead for the epic Canada C3, Coast to Coast to Coast expedition, created to mark Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation. The role involved planning the route, itinerary and daily programme for the 400 participants on board this unprecedented 25,000 km, 150-day expedition around the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific coastlines of Canada. Her current role involves supporting outreach to European partners and working on Blue Futures, a program envisioned to assist Canadian youth in preparing for the Blue Economy.
Duncan Milligan

Duncan Milligan runs Tour de Force, an adventure logistics company, specialising in weird and wonderful overland travel. After many years backpacking around SE Asia, he worked for 5 years as a tour leader / driver for an Overland company when he spent a year in South America, drove from the UK to Cameroon and back, Nairobi to Cape Town, Kathmandu to the UK via China, Tibet and Central Asia, and many trips to the Sahara region. Since setting up Tour de Force, Duncan has taken a flying car to Tomboctou, and been support crew on classic car rallies including, Peking to Paris and London to Cape Town. He project managed The Africa Rally, The Mototaxi Junket and The Icarus Trophy for The Adventurists. Duncan has trained BBC journalists on hostile environments and travel safety advice. Recent journeys include driving from Cairo to Nairobi and 4x4 explorations of Lesotho and Namibia. He also advises numerous clients wanting to complete their own, independent, overland adventures.

Vehicle Expeditions Chair (Saturday) and Route Planning For (Sunday)

Mark Mulligan

Dr Mark Mulligan, Head of Department in Geography at King’s College London considers field research as fundamental to understanding and managing environments and ecosystems. He has led successful field teaching and research programmes throughout Europe, Latin America and South-east Asia including RGS-IBG sponsored fieldwork in Colombia, Brunei and Nepal and has supervised more than 15 successful student expeditions at undergraduate, masters and PhD levels. Mark has been Hon. Sec. to the RGS-IBG Council with responsibility for expeditions and fieldwork and is currently senior fellow of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Mark currently leads research projects on: water, food and poverty in the Volta for the CGIAR Water Land and Ecosystems Programme; desertification in Southern Europe and North Africa; and the ecosystem services provided by the world's protected areas.

GIS, & Field Mapping Workshop (Sunday Morning)

Eilidh Munro

A conservation filmmaker, Eilidh Munro has been working in the Peruvian Amazon since 2017 capturing rare animal behaviour and species new to science. Her short films have been Officially Selected for several international film festivals, such as the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival in New York and the Conservation Optimism Film Festival in Oxford. Last year, she became an Explorer with the Scientific Exploration Society and received the Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking. She co-led an expedition to report on a road that’s being built through Manu Biosphere Reserve, co-producing and co-directing a documentary on the story.

Film & Video Workshop Panel (Sunday Afternoon)

Heather Needham

Heather Needham is a second-year undergraduate student reading BSc Geography at King’s College London. Her first year at university has been adventurous, some would say life changing. In June, she obtained a King’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship (KURF) where she alongside The PLuS Alliance, monitored the health and ecosystem functioning of the Okavango Delta, Botswana. During August, Heather with academics from her university, installed FreeStations (low cost environmental sensors) in a cloud forest of the Colombian Andes supported by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Fieldwork Apprentice Grant. Heather has an environment, research and travel blog www.hevneedham.wordpress.com

Sunday speaker
Clara Nielson
@clara_nielson
Clara Nielson is a marine biologist currently doing her PhD at Exeter University researching the affects of ocean acidification and metal pollution on marine invertebrates. Clara has a keen interest in fieldwork and expeditions and is currently involved in a three year project in Svalbard, Norway. This project pairs remote research with an outreach programme, allowing us to interact with thousands of school children from around the world and bringing our science straight to the classroom. We believe this enables us to both educate and inspire the next generation.

เจ้าของOceans workshop (Saturday) and Educational Expeditions (Sunday)

Holly O'Donnell
hollyodonnell_conservationist
Holly is a conservation biologist with a passion for remote places and understudied species. She worked for two years in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest conducting rapid assessment surveys. Seasonally Holly returns to Peru as an expedition guide where her focus is on large mammals and reptiles. This summer she guided an expedition investigating giant anacondas. Holly is based at the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) at the University of Oxford; where she recently completed her PGDip in International Wildlife Conservation. Holly is in the process of planning a PhD where she hopes to combine her interest in remote habitats and understudied species with her passion for expeditions, exploration and conservation. She is particularly interested in the Paraguayan Chaco and Amazon rainforest.

Tropical Forest expeditions (Saturday)

Reza Pakravan
www.RezaPakravan.com @RezaPakravan
Reza Pakravan is a filmmaker, writer and explorer whose work has taken audiences to some of the most remote corners of the world. He has presented and produced prime time series for networks such as the BBC, Channel 4, Fox and Aljazeera. He is the winner of the SES 2019 Neville Shulman Expedition Filmmaking Award. He recently travelled the width of Africa from west to east to document the impact of global warming on the indigenous people living in the Sahelian belt (revealed in his upcoming series). He is a featured contributor to The Outdoor Journal and Travel Africa magazine.

Film & Video Workshop Chair (Sunday Afternoon)

Ben Page
https://www.geo.ucl.ac.uk/people/academic-staff/ben-page
Ben is a human geographer who has undertaken academic research in Cameroon for nearly twenty-five years. He teaches African Studies, Migration Studies and Geography at UCL. Ben spent a year teaching in Malawi before reading Geography at the University of Oxford. While there he led an RGS undergraduate expedition back to Malawi to study landslides on Mt Mulanje. From there he went to Silsoe College (part of the University of Cranfield) and studied for an MSc in Rural Engineering, which he used for two years while working on community water projects in the mountains of rural Cameroon in Central Africa. He returned to Oxford to work on a doctoral project which looked at the long history of governments (colonial and post-colonial) trying to persuade Cameroonians to pay for water and how citizens have resisted their efforts. He taught for three years at Oxford, before moving to UCL in 2002.

Human & Social Sciences Workshop Panel Chair (Sunday Morning)
Scott Pallett

Scott is an expedition doctor with a specialist interest in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology. He has experience as a team leader on remote expeditions in sub-Saharan Africa and southeast Asia, having provided instructor support to military jungle training and serving on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. More recently, Scott has led the Rangers First Africa programme on behalf of the anti-poaching organisation WildCross, with support from the Scientific Exploration Society. Key interests include snakebite, tropical infectious disease and counter-poaching initiatives.

Desert & Savannah Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon)

Suresh Paul

Suresh Paul, founder and director of Equal Adventure, is an Industrial Design graduate with extensive knowledge of disability, social inclusion, coaching and sports science. With over ten years of experience in inclusive design, he has run research and development projects in the UK and abroad which have combined a range of methodologies and user involvement strategies to produce sports equipment for people with a wide range of impairments. His current research into inclusive adventure considers gaining consent and integrating therapy with community participation. He currently lectures in design, sports engineering and outdoor studies on a range of undergraduate courses across the UK, and mentors graduates during their internships at Equal Adventure. He is a Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor at Harper Adams University supporting inclusive practices in farming.

Inclusive Expeditions – advice desk (Saturday only)

Ana-Maria Pavalache

Currently based in Switzerland, Ana-Maria finds balance between working as a photographer and social educator, spending as much time as she can being involved with the world’s most isolated communities and conservation projects in diverse geographical settings, with a great focus on the High Asia region. Whether it’s trekking in Ladakh, ski touring in the Swiss Alps, backcountry camping and skiing in Lapland, rock and alpine climbing in Kalymnos, as well as sailing the Pacific Northwest, exploring glaciers in the Karakoram range and roaring for wildlife in Tajikistan, Ana makes it her mission to get immerse into nature to foster a true and vital understanding of our place in the world and explore the complexities of human experience through visual storytelling.

Human & Social Sciences Workshop Panel (Sunday Morning) and Photography Workshop Panel (Sunday Afternoon)

Iona Pawson

Iona is an International Mountain Leader and Mountaineering Instructor based between North Wales and the Alps. Having spent many weeks trekking in the Swiss Alps and Nepal as a child, she longed to become a mountaineer and explorer. Her first pay cheque bought her a set of crampons and an ice axe; and during her gap year she flew to Nepal embarking on the NMA basic mountain guide training course. Despite Iona’s passion for her job she is always seeking out the next expedition or ‘mini adventure’. This has taken her around the world including Ski Mountaineering in Mongolia and the Arctic Circle, travelling solo around India, leading expeditions to Peru and more. She now works as an instructor at Plas Y Brenin, the National Outdoor Centre training future leaders and recreationists.
Alice Pedroletti

Alice is an artist focusing her research on the idea of fragmentation that puts identity - personal or collective - in connection to architecture and landscape. She activates cartographic and “imaginative” researches investigating the territory through feelings, memories, desires. She has recently been selected for HerMap, a Cultural Heritage program between Europe and Iran led by HERITAGE, in collaboration with Bozar and Goethe Institute. She was an artist in residency on Rabbit Island (USA) and Isola Comacina (IT). Archiving is her main art practice.

Artists In The Field Workshop (Sunday Afternoon)

Ashley Perrin

Ashley has a degree from the University of Southampton Geography and Oceanography. She has sailed over 130,000 miles offshore as skipper on vessels between 20' and 185'. From 2009-12 she was British Antarctic Survey's first woman boating officer in Antarctica, in charge of all waterborne activities at Rothera, then King Edward Point, South Georgia. She left to start up Antarctic Ice Pilot. Since then AIP has been planning, running and offering ice-pilot and expedition leading services for private and scientific expeditions to Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands. A keen adventurer herself, she has climbed Aconcagua, Island Peak in the Himalayas and spent her honeymoon summiting Mount Kenya. In 2019, she and her husband sailed their 30’ yacht from Newfoundland to explore the West Coast of Greenland, ahead of a six-week project in 2020 as ice-pilot/guide to Greenland.

Polar & Arctic Environments Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon)

Edwina Pitcher

Edwina Pitcher is the author of the best-selling compendium of adventures from the Wild Guide series, Wild Guide Portugal. This guide explores the hidden parts of Portugal’s tourist areas, as well many more remote and rarely visited regions. She has swum, walked and travelled extensively throughout Portugal and Spain, completing solo the 600km long pilgrim route from Lisbon to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. She has written for the Guardian and Condé Nast Traveller and is currently writing Wild Guide Andalucía.

Route planning & Writing Workshop Panel (Sunday)

Josh Powell

Joshua Powell is a conservation biologist and National Geographic Young Explorer, with research interests in human-wildlife conflict, conservation strategy and conservation geopolitics. Josh is the Expedition Leader for Rangers Without Borders Eurasia, a research study which assesses wildlife ranger livelihoods, anti-poaching capability and opportunities for trans-boundary cooperation, across Central Asia and Eastern Europe. A former-Policy Advisor for the UK Government's Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), Josh holds a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in the USA, where he was a Thouron Scholar, before going on to complete a Churchill Fellowship (2017) looking at innovative practice in island conservation in the South Pacific and South Atlantic. Josh is one of the faces of WWFVoices for WWF and is the 2019 recipient of the Scientific Exploration Society's Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trail-blazing.

Biological Sciences Workshop & Grants Panel (Sunday)
Paul Presley
geographical.co.uk  @GeographicalMag
Paul Presley is the Editor of Geographical magazine and has worked in magazine publishing for nearly thirty years, across sectors as varied as technology, entertainment, current affairs, gaming, motoring and geography. Starting as a staff writer, Paul has served at every level of publishing, including a ten-year freelance stint, and has written on just about every subject under the sun. For Geographical, he has been instrumental in bringing an aspect of storytelling to the publication’s feature content, bringing subjects to life in ways that are engaging to readers without losing the fundamental educational aspect so vital to the topics covered.

Writing Workshop Panel Chair (Sunday Afternoon)

Steve Purvis
https://experience.landrover.com  @SteveOverland
Steve Purvis is Senior Global Event & Expedition Leader for Jaguar Land Rover Experience. Starting as an off road Instructor in 2003 at LRE Eastnor Castle, he rose through the ranks to the role he has now, running a team of Event Leaders that travel the globe managing the logistics and drive activities for all Jaguar Land Rover Events where a vehicle or vehicles move. In my spare time he is building a Defender 110 expedition vehicle. You can follow the build on Instagram @Steve_Overland, and roam the world for my a love for travel, expeditions & camping.

Vehicle Dependent Expeditions Workshop Panel  (Saturday Afternoon)

Andrew Ranville
andrewranville.com / rabbitisland.org  @andrewranville
Andrew is a US-based artist and island steward whose site-responsive projects focus on conservation and community. His writing and artworks highlight interconnected research in ecology, cartography, architecture, and rigorous fieldwork as a medium. Formal and functional aspects of his work often elicit immersive interactions, and are realised using environmentally sensitive methods which emphasise resilience. Andrew has collaborated with the crees Foundation in Manu Biosphere of the Peruvian Amazon; took part in a buried art exhibition and conservation expedition on Isla del Coco in the Pacific as a TBA21 Academy Fellow; and leads the Rabbit Island Foundation on a wilderness island in Lake Superior, Michigan—as artist residency administrator and mentor for a week-long arts and ecology expedition for student leaders. Andrew received his MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art in 2008 and was based in London from 2006–2016..

Artists In The Field Workshop Panel Chair (Sunday Afternoon)

Spike Reid
www.spikereid.net  @SpikeReid
Spike was inspired to undertake expeditions while growing up on the edge of Dartmoor, where he spent large amounts of time with scouts, cadets and other friends. Since then he has completed numerous expeditions in a wide variety of countries, ranging from first ascents in Tajikistan and Siberia, training young people in the Norwegian Arctic and the jungle of Borneo, and trekking in Bhutan and Afghanistan. In 2008 Spike circumnavigated the world along the line of 50°N after winning the RGS-IBG Land Rover Bursary. Spike is particularly keen on the rapidly-growing sport of stand-up paddleboarding, having completed the first descent of the River Ganges by this means Spike is an International Mountain Leader, photographer and experienced in diving, climbing, fell-running and sailing..

Adventure With Purpose Workshop Panel  (Saturday Afternoon)
Paul Rose

A man at the front line of exploration and one of the world's most experienced science expedition leaders. Paul Rose helps scientists unlock and communicate global mysteries in the most remote and challenging regions of the planet. Former Vice President of the Royal Geographical Society(with IBG) representing Fieldwork and Expeditions, Paul is Expedition Leader for the National Geographic Pristine Seas expeditions. In his work for BBC Paul presents television programmes focused on science and the environment. As a Polar Guide, Paul has led Greenland Ice Cap crossings, first ascents of previously unclimbed Arctic mountains and new ski-mountaineering routes. He was the Base Commander of Rothera Research Station, for the British Antarctic Survey for 10 years and was awarded HM The Queen's Polar Medal. For his work with NASA and the Mars Lander project on Mt Erebus he was awarded the US Polar Medal. A mountain in Antarctica is named after him.

Matthew Scott

Matthew Scott is a leading expert in automotive adventure and a thought leader in the overland industry both in America and Australia. He has extensively explored the world's most-remote places by 4WD, and is considered an industry authority on overland travel. Matt is the only American to ever become an editor of a major Australian 4WD publication, and has over 15 years of competitive auto racing experience. He currently serves as Senior Editor for Overland Journal, and also contributes to Outside Magazine. His work on vehicle-based adventure has appeared in over 20 different publications.

Richard Scrase

Richard is a video and radio producer. Currently he is making a programme about restoring sea grass meadows. Whether you want to record your journey from the back of a horse, underwater, or in a hot-air balloon, he can suggest what equipment to use and what to do with your recordings once you get home. Richard is Head of Online Communication at Understanding Animal Research where he makes the videos, runs websites and social media.

Anna Smith

Anna Smith is currently studying towards an MSci in Animal Behaviour at The University of Exeter. During the summer of 2019, Anna completed a 6 week expedition in an un-surveyed section of Maromizaha forest, Madagascar to produce a preliminary biodiversity report for the forest. Through using biodiversity surveys and working alongside local schools and the local NGO, DBCAM, an in depth report was generated alongside a deeper understanding on the demands of conservation to protect endemic fauna and flora in this biodiversity hotspot.
Catherine Souch
http://www.rgs.org/research  RGS_IBGhe

Dr Catherine Souch is Head of Research and Higher Education at the RGS-IBG. Catherine has a BA (Hons) from University of Cambridge and an MSc and PhD in Geography from The University of British Columbia. Before returning to the UK, she was Associate Dean and Professor of Geography at Indiana University Indianapolis. Catherine's own research focuses on records of environmental change from lake and wetland sediments. In her role at the RGS-IBG, she oversees the grants programme along with a range of other activities related to Higher Education and Research.

Earth & Environmental Sciences Workshop and Grants Workshop (Sunday)

Nathan Smith
www.wp.lancs.ac.uk/expeditionpsychology/eap3/%20 @DrNathanJSmith

Nathan is a Research Associate in Psychology, Security and Trust at the University of Manchester where he conducts theoretical and applied research on topics related to individual differences and selection, performance and health monitoring, and post-return adjustment and reintegration from extreme settings. He has worked with many different extreme environment populations and collaborated with colleagues at the European Space Agency and NASA, World Extreme Medicine and the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD). He previously worked as a Senior Research Scientist at the MOD’s Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). Nathan helped establish the psychological module on the Extreme Medicine MSc programme at the University of Exeter and co-designed the programme for the World Extreme Medicine WEMSKI course.

Saturday only

Joe Smith
www.rgs.org  @citizenjoesmith

Joe Smith is Director of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). Prior to this he was Professor of Environment and Society and head of geography at the Open University. His academic work has focused on environmental communication, history, policy and politics. Joe has put together numerous seminars for environment specialists and senior media decision-makers, mostly from the BBC, since the mid-1990s. Joe was co-founder of the Mediating Change group which supports and reflects upon new cultural work on climate change, and has included the commissioning of a body of artist's residencies. Joe holds a BA in Social and Political Sciences and a PhD in Geography from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He is also a Director of Smith of Derby Ltd., a 160-year-old public clock making company that continues to design and make new commissions all over the world, and looks after 4500 sites across the UK.

Saturday morning

Thomas Starnes
@bio_carta

Thom is a Senior Geographic Information Systems Analyst working in the RSPB Centre for Conservation Science. Graduating from Plymouth University's Environmental Science program in 2014, he has worked with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, and the RSPB. He is a Chartered Member of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation, a member of the Cave Surveying Group, and Chair of the Cambridge Conservation Forum GIS Group. Thom has provided GIS, field mapping and data management support on several field research expeditions including to northern Madagascar, the Austrian Alps and Central and Southern Oman. Ask him about open data, protected areas, drone remote sensing, and nature conservation.

GIS, Field Mapping & Low-Cost Monitoring Workshop Panel Chair (Sunday)
Sarah Tingey
www.sarahtingey.com
Sarah Tingey is a PhD student in Glaciology at the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol. Prior to her PhD, Sarah spent 9 years working in the scuba diving industry as a Divemaster and Marine Conservation Officer travelling to remote areas in Egypt and Honduras. However, Sarah now focusses her research on far colder regions! Whilst a PhD student Sarah has been on fieldwork expeditions to Patagonia, Chile (2017) and led expeditions to Iceland (2016) and the Indian Himalayas (2017, 2018). Sarah and her colleagues at Bristol Glaciology Centre and JNU Delhi are investigating the impacts of melting ice within the Himalayas. Sarah’s main focus is using this knowledge on how the region is changing to develop novel organic farming methods for the developing world.

Earth & Environmental Sciences Workshop Panel (Sunday Morning)

Tim Taylor
timtaylorphotography.com  timtaylor_photography
Tim Taylor is a fine art photographer and adventurer, inspired by the beauty of extreme environments and the wild places of our planet. His passion lies in exploring and photographing the remote, otherworldly regions of our planet in search of beauty, and of our human place within the universe. Using the medium of photography, both as an artistic instrument and scientific tool, he also aims to contribute to the understanding of our environment by collaborating with scientists, using photographic techniques to support scientific research. Recent expeditions have taken him from the 8000 metre peaks of the Himalaya, to the remote glaciers of Northern Pakistan, and to the wilds of Patagonia and Alaska. He has recently returned from a successful summit of Denali – the highest mountain in North America.

Photography Workshop Panel Chair (Sunday Afternoon)

Francesca Trotman
lovetheoceans.org
Francesca Trotman is the Managing Director and Founder of Love The Oceans. With a Masters in Marine Biology she has always had a passion for the marine world and founded LTO in 2014, aged 21. An avid diver for over a decade, and an underwater photographer, Francesca’s initial research area was shark fisheries, although her work now covers a wide range of marine topics in Mozambique. Results orientated, Francesca constantly encourages people to consider conservation in everyday life and take a greener approach to modern living. She oversees Love The Oceans work in country, travels the UK doing talks and presentations about it, and spends her time split between Mozambique and the UK.

Oceans & Marine Projects Workshop Panel  (Saturday Afternoon)

Jessi Tucker
@jesstucks  @jtlewiswriter
Dr Jessi Tucker is an emergency medicine doctor, writer, spoken word artist and conservationist. Expeditions and fieldwork include trekking jungles in Belize, researching bats in Myanmar and Malaysia, diving in Borneo, health camps in Nepal, malaria prevention in The Gambia, stargazing in the Sinai desert and, most recently, sailing the Hebridean Sea. Back on home turf, she loves to wild camp and spends time exploring the south-west where she moved a few years ago. She also volunteers for Adventure Queens, a community group set up to empower and encourage women to get outdoors and have adventures. She writes and performs creatively under the name JT Lewis.

Spoken Word (Saturday) and Writing Workshop Panel (Sunday Afternoon)
Briony Turner

https://www.the-iea.org/  @turner_briony

Briony has recently completed her doctoral research in the Department of Geography at King's College London. Her undergraduate research took her to Chobe National Park, Botswana to study degradation of waterholes due to elephant activity. For her Masters she lived with the Massai in northern Tanzania, investigating livelihood and land use change. Briony co-founded with other PhD students an informal seminar series, Intrepid Explorers, to provide a chance to share experiences from fieldwork and exploration. She is also a Director of RESET a charity for the ecological adaptation of the built environment. She is a Council member of the Scientific Exploration Society.

Grants For Field Research (Sunday Afternoon)

Simon Winchcombe

Simon Winchcombe is a BBC producer/director whose work over 20 years has taken him to over 40 countries, 20 US States and all 7 continents. But that’s just the numbers. He’s been lucky enough to film Tim Peake’s training in Baikonur and Moscow, the cremation of a pig at a Neolithic tomb, the meaning of medieval embroidery discussed with an Italian priest, eating nothing but reindeer for a fortnight in Kamchatka, seen the Southern Cross from the Halley Research Station, watched and camped inside the Nyiragongo volcano next to the world’s largest lava lake in the DRC.

Film & Video Workshop Panel (Sunday Afternoon)

Nigel Winser

@nigelwinser

Nigel Winser has had a career directing interdisciplinary research and learning programmes in Africa, the Middle East and Asia to support conservation and sustainable development priorities. He was Deputy Director of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), responsible for developing and managing 11 major field programmes. This included the Oman Wahiba Sands Programme in 1986/87 and the Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme. In 2005 Nigel joined Earthwatch as its Executive Director, heading its European ‘citizen science’ programmes and its international programmes in Africa, India and the Middle east. This included the HSBC Climate Partnership and working with the Oman Government to establish their National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation. He is now an advisor working on research and conservation projects in Oman, Kenya and the Indian Ocean. Nigel is also a trustee of the Nekton Mission working in the Indian Ocean next year.

Expedition Planning advice desk

Shane Winser

rgs.org/go  @ShaneWinser

Shane Winser works for the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) where she heads Geography Outdoors: the centre supporting field research, exploration and outdoor learning (formerly known as the Expedition Advisory Centre) which provides advice, information and training to some 1,500 plus scientific, educational, and adventurous expeditions each year. A zoology graduate with a postgraduate diploma in Information Science, she assisted in the planning and organisation of the RGS's own research programmes to the tropical forests of Sarawak and Brunei, the mountains of the Karakoram, and the drylands of western Australia, Kenya and Oman. She is the chair of BSI’s technical panel for BS 8848: the British Standard that specifies operational requirements for organisers of a wide variety of ventures. These include adventurous and educational activities abroad including university and academic fieldwork, gap year experiences, adventure holidays, charity challenges and research expeditions.
Stephanie Wong

Stephanie is the Founder of WildCross, an anti-poaching organisation currently carrying out medical support and surveillance projects in central Africa. From a background in humanitarian crisis support, Stephanie moved into advocating for sustainable and fair farming with projects in sub-Saharan Africa, southeast Asia and South America. More recently, she has just returned from overseeing an anti-poaching support programme and setup of a first-responder network in Zambia. Stephanie's key interests include conservation and protection of endangered species as well as spending time as an amateur wildlife photographer.

Desert & Savanna Workshop Panel (Saturday Afternoon)

Rosalie Wright

A current Biology student, Rosie was the scientific co-ordinator of the Oxford University Usun Apau Retraced expedition. Being a keen SCUBA diver, Treasurer of the Oxford University Exploration Club and a climbing fan, she's been focused on conservation from an early age and loves any form of adventure. Her experience includes diving off the coast of Mozambique to assess nudibranch diversity, manatee surveys in Cuba and recently spent her summer studying the genetics underlying insect cognition in pollinator species. She hopes to encourage more student-led expeditions and conservation studies.

Speaker