

Geographical journeys: microlectures

**Royal
Geographical
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

- 10 March 2022
- Guidance for speaker applications

We welcome applications from interested members, Fellows and prospective new members who wish to speak at the 2022 microlectures evening (organised by the Younger Members' Committee).

Please apply in accordance with these guidelines and read the full document as it contains detailed information on the process.

Overview

Following the submission deadline a shortlist of applicants is drawn up and invited to attend an audition, following which the successful applicants will be asked to give a 10 minute 'microlecture' in front of an audience in the Society's Ondaatje Theatre. The 2022 event date will be on Thursday 10 March. The Map Room bar will be open for drinks before and after the talks, as well as during the interval. Six applicants will be selected to speak.

The event is informal and aims to inspire, entertain and engage the audience about our world. Talks must have a geographical focus, sharing aspects of what was learnt on the journey. However, this is not an evening for experienced speakers and academic presentations. Rather, it is a chance to see a diverse selection of the 'next generation' of speakers. Those who have spoken at the microlectures event in the previous two years are not eligible to apply.

Each talk will be unique and the event will give both audience and speakers the chance to learn something about the world in which we live, and to meet other attendees. The audience will be a mixture of Society members and the interested public (typically 300-400 people attending) and will be encouraged to participate by asking questions and discussing with other attendees.

Although the event is organised by the Younger Members' Committee, there is no expectation that either the speakers or the audience will necessarily be 'young'. Speakers have ranged from under 20 to over 60, and the audience will be wider still.

- Time and practice your lecture to make sure it doesn't run over the allotted 10 minutes.
- Video material can be used to illustrate a section of your story. Smooth integration is essential. Video is best placed earlier on to avoid timing problems. Avoid whole story summaries, trailers and longer clips.
- Is there a conclusion to your story? Consider how you are going to round off your lecture.
- Keep it snappy and enjoy yourself – when you do, the audience will enjoy it too!

Auditions

One of the Committee will reply by email to arrange an audition for those who are shortlisted. Exact dates will be confirmed individually, and auditions will take place remotely online during the autumn term 2021.

It would be to the applicant's advantage to have their talk and slides in as good a shape as possible, but we do not expect the audition to be necessarily a final version of the applicant's microlecture. We will be looking for an engaging talk which includes a strong degree of personal experience as well as insight into a particular area or aspect of geography. After your 'run through' you will be asked questions, as will happen on the night, and given feedback on content and presentation.

Following auditions the Committee organisers will meet in early January 2020 to select the final line-up. No further feedback on unsuccessful applicant auditions can be given at this time. In selecting speakers, the organisers will aim to put together a varied programme that will inform, inspire and entertain the audience with fresh stories about interesting places.

By agreeing to participate, successful speakers give permission for their name, the title of their presentation and their image illustrating the microlecture to be used in promotional material for the event. Press and publicity will be organised directly by the Society but speakers will be encouraged to publicise the event through their own social media channels as well.

This is not a formal Monday night lecture. Despite taking place in the Ondaatje Theatre it is an informal event and provides an opportunity for the audience to hear 'snapshots' of experiences from around the world from our members. The audience will comprise a range of age groups, interests and expertise, from school pupils to experienced professionals. Some will be members of the Society, others will be the general public with enthusiasm and an interest in your topic.

Technical details

For the event the presentations should be either a PowerPoint or Keynote file (PowerPoint preferred). All will be pre-loaded and sequenced so they must be submitted by midnight Friday 6 March. In addition you should bring your presentation to the event as a backup on a separate piece of media or on your own laptop. The AV technician may be able to assist, but all speakers are responsible for ensuring that their presentation is converted as required, and compatible with the software.

Content should be provided in 16:9 format; this fits our screens in the best ratio, however other formats such as 4:3 can be provided. The best resolution for our projector is 1080 pix (1920 x 1080)

Videos are normally shown with VLC, Q-lab, and Quick-time or via the Blu-ray player, so please supply MP4/MOV/AVI formats.

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The following software will be provided in the Ondaatje Theatre:

- Windows 7
- Mac OSX
- PowerPoint 2011 (Mac Users: PowerPoint should be saved as .ppt and not .pptx)
- Keynote 7
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Windows Media Player
- QuickTime

NB for both auditions and the microlectures event, it is essential that you save your presentation as a PDF backup as well - bring this with you as it is the safest multi-platform format.

You should bring the source for any video footage/internet links/audio (i.e. do not rely on shortcuts on your home PC). If embedded into the presentation, these should be saved in a separate folder on the memory stick as a backup. The microlectures evening will follow this format (exact timings dependent on number of speakers):

Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7.00pm

5.30pm Speakers arrive promptly at RGS-IBG for briefing and sound check
6.00pm Doors open to ticket holders and Map Room bar opens, opportunity for networking
7.00pm Introduction and three presentations
8.00pm Interval (bar/networking)
8.30pm Final three presentations
9.30pm End of presentations, informal networking in the Map Room bar
10.30pm Event ends

Recording

The Society will record the event in order to help promote future events of this type and to make the event available to view on its website. Speakers will be asked for their formal consent and a signature will be required for this if you are selected.

If you have not attended the event before, we recommend that you view the recordings of previous talks. Previous Microlectures are available to view at <https://www.rgs.org/geography/online-lectures/?categories=Microlectures>

About the Younger Members' Committee and events

The Younger Members' Committee organise a programme of geographical events with a strong social element, aimed at both members and the wider public. The events provide an invaluable contribution to the Society's London activities, providing an opportunity for like-minded individuals to meet each other and to engage with geographical topics in an informal atmosphere.

Attendees, and committee members, mostly fall into the 20-45 age group. Events are open to all, except wine tasting evenings and the Summer Garden Party, which are for over 18s.

Other regular events include informal drinks in the Map Room following the first Monday lecture of each month, a Christmas quiz, an opportunity to experience the Society's Collections, and the annual Microlectures evening – a series of talks by members about recent journeys, every March.

The committee is currently chaired by Annabel Illingworth. If you would like to find out more, or get involved in the Younger Members' Committee, please [contact us](#).

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Contacts

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Events Office (9.30am-5.30pm Monday-Friday):

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 www.rgs.org/microlectures

 @ RGS_IBG #rgsibgmicro

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Thank you for your interest and good luck!