

# Geographical journeys: microlectures

- Thursday 14 March 2019
- Guidance for speaker applications

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**We welcome applications from interested members and Fellows who wish to speak at the 2018 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 2019 event date will be on Thursday 14 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. The evening will be hosted by presenter and broadcaster Mary-Ann Ochota.

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.



- 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 longer clips, whole story summaries and trailers.
- 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. These will take place at the Society following specified Monday night lectures in the autumn term 2018. 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 degree of personal experience as well as insight into a particular area or aspect of geography.

Exact audition dates for individual applicants will be confirmed directly but times available will be 7.45pm, 8.15pm and occasionally 8.45pm, on the following evenings:

Mondays: 5, 12, 19 and 26 November 2018

Mondays: 3, (and 10 if required) December 2018

Auditions take place in the Sunley Room (opposite the Map Room). Applicants should wait outside and will be invited in when appropriate. 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 2019 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**

Presentations should be a PowerPoint file. For auditions, please bring this on a USB stick to load onto the Society's laptop. Using your own laptop to connect to the AV system can be problematic.

For the event itself the presentations should be either a PowerPoint or Keynote file (PowerPoint preferred). All will be pre-loaded and therefore must be submitted a few days before the event. 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.

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The following software will be provided in the Ondaatje Theatre:

- Windows 7
- Mac OSX
- PowerPoint 2010 (Mac Users: PowerPoint should be saved as .ppt and not .pptx)
- Keynote 6
- 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 14 March 2019 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 on the RGS-IBG YouTube channel, which contains the 2016 and 2017 talks. The 2018 talks will follow soon. <https://www.youtube.com/user/RGSIBG/search?query=microlectures>

#### **About the Younger Members' Committee and events**

The Younger Members' Committee organise geographical events with a strong social element aimed at an audience of members, with the public also welcome. The programme provides an invaluable contribution to the Society's London activities. Most committee members fall into the 20-45 age group.

Events are for like-minded individuals to meet each other; there is no age restriction for attendees except for wine tastings and the annual Summer Garden Party which are 18 and over. Other regular events include an informal gathering for drinks in the Map Room bar following the first Monday night lecture each month, a Christmas quiz, Collections display visits, and occurring in March annually is the [Microlectures](#) – an evening of short talks by members about recent geographical journeys.

The Younger Members' Committee is informal, but all committee members are currently Society members. The committee is currently chaired by Annabel Illingworth. If you would like to get involved in the Younger Members' Committee please email [ymc@rgs.org](mailto:ymc@rgs.org)

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## Contacts

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

 +44 (0)20 7591 3100

 [ymc@rgs.org](mailto:ymc@rgs.org)

 [www.rgs.org/microlectures](http://www.rgs.org/microlectures)

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Thank you for your interest and good luck!