

**Caitlin Rees**

***Issues and Ethics in Geography***

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning



**Name:** Caitlin Rees

**University:** University of Lancaster

**Course:** BSc Geography

I am studying a module titled Issues and Ethics in Geography – I expected this to be a boring but essential model - I couldn't have been more wrong. It covers the decolonisation of geography, the discipline's history, as well as criticising geography's often racist, capitalist and non-inclusive roots. Very little of this is taught at school as it is a controversial topic, and not considered to be key information by the curriculum despite its importance in understanding the discipline.

It's taught me to be more critical and to understand how much our own positionalities dictate the way we approach Geography. It's motivated me to continue to buck the trend of what a 'geographer' is traditionally considered to be – we are more than explorers and academics; we are policymakers, consultants, risk analysts...the list goes on!

Geography at University is considerably more exciting than at school – gone are the days of rote learning the types of volcanoes and why rivers meander! It approaches all the key issues affecting the world today and gives you the critical and analytical skills necessary to tackle them.

Geographers are uniquely placed with their skillset to be able to tackle many issues with a 'big-picture' thinking approach. It is an interdisciplinary degree so you're constantly challenged. I'd especially recommend the subject if you are struggling to choose what to study as it gives you such a fantastic breadth of knowledge.