



NEWS

WM-Air



A team led from GEES (**Bill Bloss, Francis Pope, Roy Harrison, Zongbo Shi, Lee Chapman, Xiaoming Cai, Rob MacKenzie**), IAHR (Suzanne Bartington, Neil Thomas, Sue Jowett) and City-REDI (Deniz Sevinc, John Bryson) have been successful in winning funding for **WM-Air**, the West Midlands Air Quality Improvement Programme.

“Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to Public Health in the UK” (DEFRA, 2017). Air pollution in the West Midlands affects some 2.8 million people, reducing average life expectancy by up to 6 months, and is responsible for economic costs estimated at up to £860m per year. Air quality is therefore a key priority for local and regional government, and increasingly the general public. The formation of the West Midlands Combined Authority, the Second Devolution Deal for the West Midlands, existing Local Authority, NHS and private sector actions and priorities give rise to a unique opportunity to translate NERC science expertise to improve air quality in the region.

WM-Air is funded through the NERC Regional Impacts of Environmental Science (RISE) programme, and

aims to apply existing NERC environmental science expertise to deliver policy, societal and economic impact in support of improving air quality in the West Midlands region. The project was co-designed with over 20 regional partners, including the WMCA, TfWM, local authorities including Birmingham and Coventry City Councils, infrastructure partners including HS2 and Network Rail, the Birmingham & Solihull NHS Foundation Trust, consultancies and SMEs. The NERC funding will support measurement and modelling activities, the development of predictive tools to enhance air quality policy and prediction including health and economic effects, and will resource a cohort of Impact Fellows, embedded within partner organisations to apply capability developed by the project to specific case studies / policy priorities. The project will run for five years from early 2019, with a funded value of £5.0m (100% FEC) in addition to partner contributions.

Chair for GEES graduate Gina Moseley

Ian Fairchild passed on to us the great news that Gina Moseley, BSc Geography graduate 2005 (and immortalised in a - now rather out of date - poster on the ground floor Geography corridor) has been appointed to the Hochmair Professorship within the Innsbruck Quaternary Research Group at the Institute of Geology, University of Innsbruck.

At GEES, Gina's undergraduate dissertation was *A Study into the microclimatology of Shatter Cave, southwest England with comparison to Uamh an Tartair, northwest Scotland*. After leaving us, she completed her PhD at Bristol, this time researching the *Mid to Late Quaternary sea-level change of the circum-Caribbean region*, before spending time at the Carnegie Institute in Washington DC, the Trace Metal Isotope Geochemistry Lab at the University of Minnesota, and at the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at University of Manchester,

and starting post-doctoral work at Innsbruck in 2011. She became FWF Hertha-Firnberg Fellow in 2015, and earlier this year was awarded the €1.1 million START Prize of the FWF (the Austrian Science Fund). The START programme is aimed at young top researchers of all disciplines who are given the opportunity to plan their research in the long term and with financial security. Her project, about climate change in the Arctic, will not only be a pioneering step for international speleothem research, which has so far concentrated on the lower and middle latitudes, but will also open up new perspectives for paleoclimatology, and a new window into the past of the polar region.



Ian notes that as a very community-minded person, despite her Innsbruck base, Gina is also working hard to support the British Cave Research Association.

Autumn train timetables - a leafy subject

For railway commuters across England and Wales, December brings to an end the annual 'Leaf fall timetables' and the regular announcements of 'leaves on the line' causing delays.

Lee Chapman is currently working with a co-located UK Met Office team on a number of projects to help better observe the adhesion problem using the rapidly emerging internet of things. [The Met Office](#) team based at the University of Birmingham uses research to continually improve their leaf fall and low adhesion forecasting services, which are used by railway companies across the country to put timely and targeted mitigation in place.

For more information see the Birmingham Brief article [here](#).

Landscape leadership

Ruben Foquet, PhD researcher at Physical geography and International development, was part of 40 students and young professionals to participate in a Landscape Leadership workshop in Bonn, Germany. The workshop was organized by the Global Landscapes Forum, a knowledge-led multi-stakeholder forum promoting the landscape approach, and the Youth in Landscapes Initiative, a global movement of young people dedicated to the landscape philosophy. The workshop focused on complex problem solving skills, decision making and creativity. Participants learned how to build consensus among people with diverse perspectives and backgrounds, how to be comfortable with being uncomfortable, and how to meaningfully engage in the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn the following two days. Reflecting on the immersive four days in Bonn, Ruben shared his thoughts: "The workshop redefined leadership for me while being inspired and empowered by the energy and shared passion of the other youth participants. Working as a team, operationalizing collaborative leadership, will be key to face the current global challenges of providing a sustainable future, tackling climate change and countering land degradation. Young people have a crucial role to play. In the coming months I will definitely apply what I learned while encouraging all 18-35 aged people, passionate about global landscape challenges, to be part of the Youth in Landscapes Initiative."



Early Career Researcher Meeting

On November 21st, Royal Society of Chemistry held their 3rd Early Career Researcher Meeting in London. The meeting was under the title Environmental Chemistry of Water, Sediment, Soil and Air and was organised by the Environmental Chemistry Interest group (ECG), which consider all aspects of the complex relationships between chemistry and environment. **Angeliki Kourmouli**, a 3rd year Environmental Health PhD student, attended the meeting, with a poster presentation. Angeliki presented data from her PhD project at BIFoR, regarding the bioavailable nutrient dynamics in the forest soil under elevated CO₂ and won the best poster presentation of the meeting.



Angeliki receiving the best poster presentation award by Dr Monica Felipe-Sotelo.

Fraser Sugden participated as a panellist at the 2018 Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn, in a session Managing Migration and Remittances for Environmentally Sustainable and Socially Responsive Landscapes. The session was oriented around the questions of the impact of out-migration on natural resource management in fragile agro-ecological systems, and the potential for migrant's skills, knowledge or remittances to be harnessed to contribute to sustainable landscape restoration. Fraser presented recent research from East Africa and Nepal, alongside case studies from South and Central America. The Global Landscapes Forum is an

annual event attended by representatives from government, international agencies, indigenous organisations and the private sector to share experiences on moving from commitment to action towards sustainable landscapes.

NOTICES



Finance Deadline Dates for New Core

There will be downtime in the finance systems whilst data is migrated from the old

systems to New Core. Please note that you should plan-ahead for ordering supplies you need during the downtime. You need to complete your transactions (particularly purchase orders) by the dates shown below. If you require supplies to arrive during the downtime, ask finance to put a specific delivery date on the order. This is important for perishable or short shelf life items. Stores will be able to help if you need to order items in advance. The dates below are our specific **College** finance processing dates:

Finance Area	Key Date	What this means?
Purchase Orders – Science Warehouse	7.1.19	For Science Warehouse (e-marketplace) approved orders
Purchase Orders – Internal	7.1.19	Last date for internal orders
Purchase Orders – other	7.1.19	Deadline for approved purchase orders that are for current approved suppliers and under £25k
Expenses – staff and non-staff	7.1.19	The expense form needs to be completed and authorised by this date for payment to be made
Foreign Currency orders/currency cards	11.1.19	Deadline for authorised orders on proactis or authorised requests for card top up's.
Purchasing Cards	7.1.19	Last date for transactions on a purchasing card. After this date all cards will be stopped.
New research project codes	16.1.19	Final date for project codes to be set up

Systems that will still be available:

- Services from internal suppliers such as Fresh Thinking/Estates will be available
- Online shop
- Corporate Cards
- Key Travel

Contact **Jo Quarry**, Head of Administration if you have any further questions, or your School Operations Manager. J.L.Quarry@bham.ac.uk, Ext. 44929

COMING UP NEXT WEEK

Tuesday

10:45-11:30am

Coffee morning, Earth Sciences coffee room, ground floor A-block Aston Webb. Cups and tea/coffee will be provided.

Thursday



17:00

GEES Christmas Party at the Lapworth Museum
All staff and PhD students welcome.

Friday

10:45-11:30am

Coffee morning—details as above

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lapworth Museum Tour

Join the Lapworth Museum staff and volunteers for a guided tour of the Museum. Tours are on a first come first served basis. Please meet at the visitor reception (tours are free of charge) at noon. The first tour for 2019 will be on; **7th of January**.

Inaugural Lecture - Professor Richard Butler

The Rise of Dinosaurs

24th January 2019 at 17:30

Lecture Theatre WG05, Aston Webb. Followed by a drinks reception in the Lapworth Museum

Dinosaurs are the most familiar of all extinct animals, but how, when and why did they rise to dominate the world of the Mesozoic? Discoveries of new fossils from far-flung corners of the world, restudy of forgotten museum collections, and new ways of studying old bones are together providing fresh insights into dinosaur origins. Professor Butler will explore how the slow ascendancy of dinosaurs to dominance was shaped by two devastating mass extinction events, climatic changes, and unique biological adaptations.

All are welcome to attend. This event is free, but booking is essential. If you would like to attend this event, please complete the [online registration form](#)

UK environmental policy after Brexit Workshop

24 January in Lucas House, Edgbaston Park Road

Most environmental policy in the UK emanates from the EU and is enshrined in hundreds of EU regulations and directives. When the UK exits the EU it will regain the power to pursue an independent environmental policy. Decisions will then need to be made on the future form of UK

environmental policy. The default position is clearly to retain existing EU policy. In the long term there is however a unique opportunity fundamentally to reshape UK environmental policy. There will need to be a dialogue between Government, businesses, environmental NGOs and academics to deliver desired environmental outcomes and evaluate the inevitable societal trade-offs.

The University of Birmingham and the University of Nottingham are holding a joint workshop on UK environmental policy after Brexit. The workshop will approach policy issues from a socio-economic perspective. Speakers are drawn from academia, Government bodies and other stakeholders.

Among other things the workshop will

- Explain the extent to which the EU currently shapes UK environmental policy
- Deal with specific issues in air quality, water quality, waste and energy efficiency / the EU Emissions Trading System
- Provide views from industry on the extent to which environmental regulation can and should be reshaped
- Discuss the relationship between trade and the environment and how it links with future trade negotiations
- Provide an opportunity to put questions to the speakers

Attendance is free but places are limited and so it is necessary to reserve your place now.

Registration is via the workshop website <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uk-environmental-policy-after-brex-it-tickets-40179463858>.

For further information, please see the workshop website or contact Prof David Maddison (d.j.maddison@bham.ac.uk) or Dr Bouwe Dijkstra (Bouwe.dijkstra@nottingham.ac.uk).

NEXT ISSUE

The next Bulletin will be published on Friday 18 January.

Contributions for the Bulletin should be sent to Lesley Ann Ford (L.A.Boyle@bham.ac.uk).

All contributions should be sent to Lesley by Wednesday 5 December.

Visit the [GEES staff Intranet](#) for forthcoming seminars, contacts, general School information and documents.



GEES on social media