

Editorial

Ten years on(ward)!

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At this decennial mark for Social & Cultural Geography, we want to take the opportunity to announce some changes, reiterate some commitments and values, thank some colleagues, and introduce some new ones.

With this 2009 new volume and issue, 10(1), *Social & Cultural Geography* enters its tenth year of publication. The so-called ‘cultural turn’ in the discipline has now straightened out into yet another wide and well-trodden path for human geographers to pursue their scholarship. Peter Jackson’s (2000) clarion call for ‘rematerializing cultural geography’ has surely been answered, as the impressive range of work published here since 2000 evinces. Social geography remains a mainstay, vibrant, and innovative subdiscipline in several countries, especially the UK. It is even practiced in the USA, although not usually under that moniker (Del Casino and Marston 2006). Classic questions on the relation between the social and spatial remain, such as restructuring (Andrucki and Elder 2007), landscape (Bingley 2003), inequality and exclusion (Leyshon 2008); but new themes have emerged too. Questions of identity and subjectivity that exercised us in the 1990s have

been transformed through thinking about intersectionality and posthumanism, in practices of the everyday and in the mundane and banal (Browne 2007; Castree and Nash 2006; Binnie et al. 2007). Meanwhile, climbing to ever-higher theoretical heights has been checked by practices of participatory-action research (Pain and Bailey 2004). Transnationalism has excited those of us interested in migration (Collins 2008; Waters 2002). Anxieties over the crisis of representation are being superseded—especially in British geography—over non (or more-than) representational approaches (Anderson, Morton and Revill 2005). Laclau and Mouffe’s pride of place on our bookshelves has been replaced by recent work by Agamben and Badiou, as well as by re-engagements in Foucault and Lefebvre (Crampton and Elden 2006; Simpson 2008). In short, it’s been quite a journey, one we feel has been ‘radically open’, in Jennifer Wolch’s (2003) potent words.

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Ten volumes is not a long run in journal-years perhaps, and that time frame has witnessed somewhat of a boom in the introduction of other new journals in the field, but over the past decade the journal has grown and become more successful. In the journal's first year sixteen articles were published in two issues and the volume was only 250 pages long. In 2008 we will publish eight issues with forty articles spanning just under 1,000 pages. Other quantitative measures, like inclusion in ISI rankings and 'impact factors' reflect well on the journal. Qualitative measures such as the quality of manuscripts submitted and the journal's reputation also indicate the journal's caliber.

The editorial board and staff have come from twenty-three countries, as depicted in Figure 1. This international editorial team has worked ardently to broaden our submissions, which to date represent thirty-three countries, as depicted in Figure 2. These representations

only partially map the breadth and specificities that have composed the journal over the past years. In reflection on the field of social and cultural geographic research and the journal that bears its name, we invite you to revisit key issues in the journal's career, including geographies of ability (Crouch 2001), language (Desforges and Jones 2001), religion and spirituality (Holloway and Valins 2002), food (Freidberg 2003), 'culture' (Mee and Waitt 2003), psychoanalysis (Philo and Parr 2003), care (Conradson 2003), memory (Hoelscher and Alderman 2004), emotion (Davidson and Milligan 2004), music and sound (Anderson, Morton and Revill 2005), posthumanism (Castree and Nash 2006), calculation (Crampton and Elden 2006), art (Cant and Morris 2006), sexual identity (Browne 2007), mobilities (Binnie et al. 2007), oral histories (Riley and Harvey 2007), and technology (Dixon and Whitehead 2008). *Social & Cultural Geography* has been

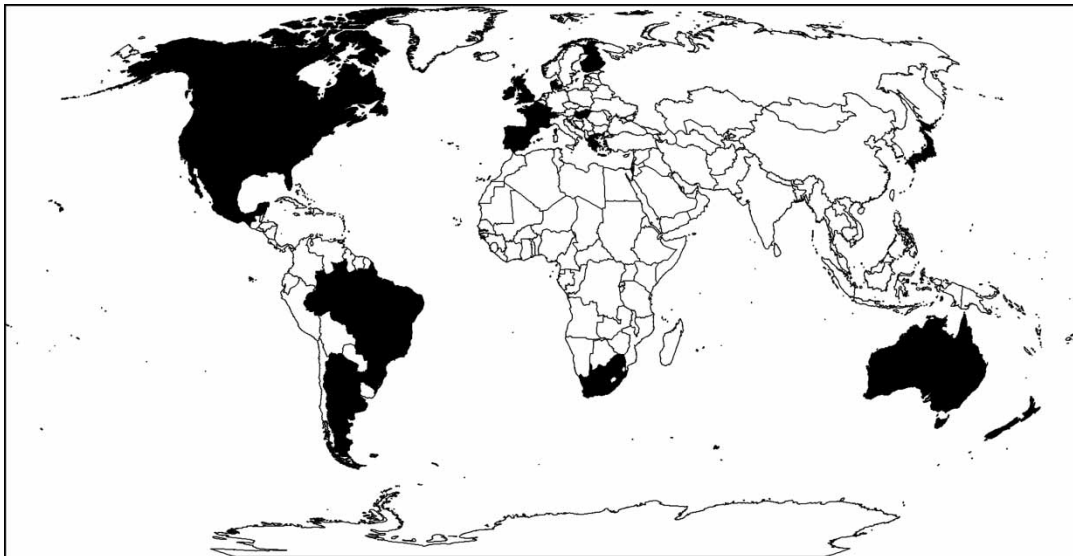


Figure 1 The editorial team for *Social & Cultural Geography* has been composed of individuals from twenty-three countries.

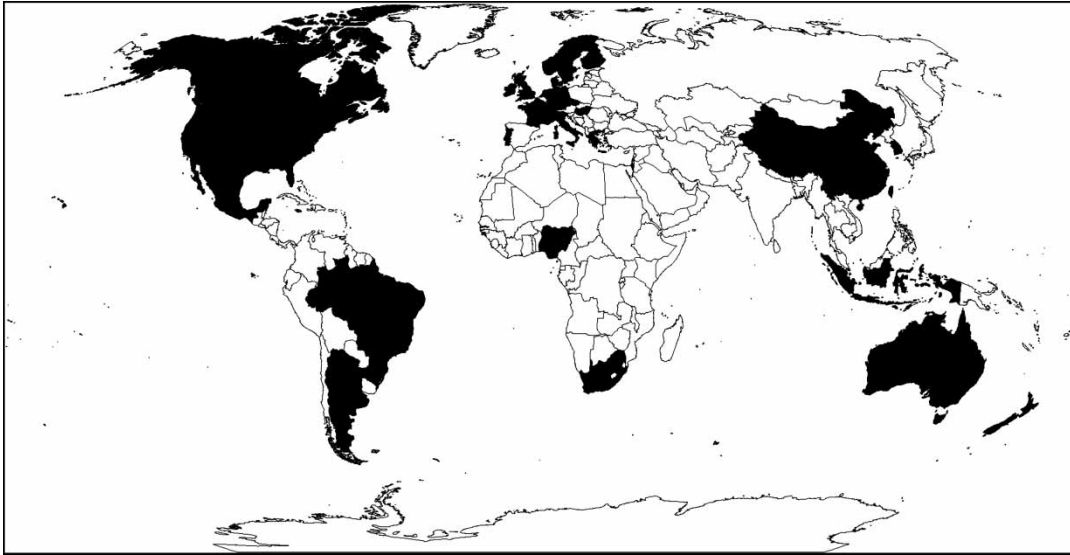


Figure 2 Contributors to *Social & Cultural Geography* include individuals from thirty-three countries.

an outlet for exciting research areas in human geography.

Changes and welcomes

Earlier in 2008, Michael Brown took over as Managing Editor for the journal from Rob Kitchin. Rob stepped down after not only serving in that role for ten years, but also helping to found the journal from scratch along with the original editorial team of Brendan Gleeson, Nuala Johnson, Cindi Katz, Linda Peake, David Sibley and Gill Valentine (Gleeson et al. 2000). His dedication has been impressive and inspiring, as it has been tireless. And it has been evinced in large and small moves: from first identifying the need for a 'middle' journal that attends to both empirical and theoretical dimensions *per se* of critical human geography, to convincing a publisher to invest in a new journal. Rob developed fair

and transparent policies and procedures so that the journal operates efficiently and equitably; but he has been just as diligent in the quick email bugging colleagues about tardy review reports or to make a final decision on an overdue manuscript. Rob has worked assiduously to make *Social & Cultural Geography* truly an international, peer-reviewed journal (Kitchin 2005a, 2005b).

The editorial offices thus move from Maynooth, Ireland to Seattle, Washington, USA. Matthew Wilson, a PhD candidate at the University of Washington, is now the Editorial Assistant for the journal. He can be reached at scgjrn1@u.washington.edu. Matt is in charge of processing manuscripts when they come in for review, making sure they are in the proper format, page length and are anonymized. He coordinates between all the editors to ensure the flow of manuscripts from submission to review to typesetting is smooth and easy. Matt also batches articles, book reviews and

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commentaries for each issue. So we want to thank Routledge and the Department of Geography and College of Arts and Sciences—especially Judy Howard, Bill Beyers and Katharyne Mitchell—at the University of Washington for help in financially supporting the vital work that the Editorial Assistant does for *Social & Cultural Geography*.

There are other editorial changes. Phil Hubbard has become an associate editor for the journal. Phil brings with him an expertise in social and cultural geography generally and questions of inclusion and exclusion specifically. The recent explosion of submissions and special issues has meant we've had to throw Phil into the deep end of editorial responsibility, and he is skillfully rising to the challenge with alacrity. As a result of increased demand for space in the journal, one section that will cease is the Recently Completed Doctorates section. We will publish the batch that we currently have, as space will allow, but we will not be accepting any new submissions.

We have also made some changes to the editorial boards this year. Unlike some journals whose editorial boards never change for decades, and whose members seem to be chosen based on personal ties rather than professional contributions, *Social & Cultural Geography* tries to rotate board members every five years or so. We do this to ensure a mixture of 'elder doyens' and 'rising stars', to ensure a truly international perspective (especially beyond the Anglo-American axis of English-speaking geography), a mixture of positionalities, standpoints and subjectivities, a mixture of scholars working across a wide array of theoretical and empirical terrains, and a mixture of topical and systematic specialties. And so we'd like to publicly welcome the following new members onto the Board: Jane Battersby, University of Cape Town; David Conradson, University of Southampton;

Dydia Delyser, Louisiana State University; Jason Dittmer, University College London; Michelle Duffy, University of Melbourne; Paul Kingsbury, Simon Fraser University; Lynda Johnston, University of Waikato; Minelle Mahtani, University of Toronto; Joao Sarmiento, University of Minho; Robert Vander Beck, Leeds University; and Jamie Winders, Syracuse University.

Continuities

How could we let Rob Kitchin go completely, after all he's done? Rob will continue his role as editor of the Country Reports section. We will also keep him 'in-reserve' to handle overflow manuscripts when the other editors have too many manuscripts on the go. Rob will also be responsible for processing editorials and commentaries, which we always welcome from all corners. Another editorial continuity is Lily Kong at the National University of Singapore. She will be continuing on as an associate editor. Lily was on the original editorial board of the journal and brings continuity as well as an expertise in religion, cultural forms of national identity, and migration. The journal's book review editors, Mary Gilmartin and Vincent Del Casino will also continue in their roles. They will continue to put the journal in good contact with publishing houses, organize roundtables on key texts and will connect potential reviewers up with new texts that are contributing to the field.

Given the outstanding work Rob Kitchin has done managing *Social & Cultural Geography*, there is little need for the editors to make major changes in mission or policies of the journal. So here we want to reiterate some fundamental visions and policies that have always been a part of the journal (see Gleeson

et al. 2000). Foremost, *Social & Cultural Geography* seeks to publish theoretically-informed empirical work. The scope of that mission is deliberately open and broad (Wolch 2003). Which theory is engaged and where the empirical work is done cannot be pre-determined for a journal like this one. The means of connection between theory and empirics also cannot be predestined, nor can the methodology. What we seek is work that helps us (the readers of and contributors to *Social & Cultural Geography*) think better about the ways the world does, or does not, work, in spaces, places, and movements all around the globe.

Social & Cultural Geography seeks to be a truly international, peer-reviewed journal. We do this through maintaining an international editorial board and by welcoming papers and authors from beyond Anglo-American geography, as illustrated in Figure 1. And we are keen to see more countries added to future drafts of this map. We publish article abstracts in English, French and Spanish, and this polyphony will continue. Our Country Reports section invites scholars from around the world to chronicle their own country's trends and debates within the field. These have been printed in indigenous languages. We also strive for internationalism during the refereeing process. The policy of the editors is to solicit three anonymous reviewers who cannot all be from the same part of the world. Routledge has also developed a small set of policies designed to improve the affordability and accessibility of *Social & Cultural Geography* to scholars in the Global South.

The range of our geography in Figure 2, however, certainly could be further extended. And this drive for internationalism can be a challenge, as Rob Kitchin (2005a) has noted. Scholars from the majority world do not have access to current journals or books where 'the

current state of the literature' resides. Issues that are paramount in some places can be deemed banal or trivial to the far-away scholarly reviewers. Colleagues for whom English is not their first language often face acute challenge from reviewers and copy-editors. We take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to publish all high-quality work, regardless of its country of origin. We ask that reviewers and referees—as well as ourselves—be cognizant of the structural inequalities that reproduce Anglo-American closure and hegemony in publication.

We also will continue to work closely with graduate students and other first-time authors to help them in their 'soaring', as Susan Hanson (1988) described it. A recent report on doctoral education in US geography has argued the need for more professional development in the field, including attention to helping graduate students publish their high-caliber work (Babbit, Rudd, Picciano and Nevad 2008). The publication process can be mysterious and intimidating, and many of us remember our own personal horrific experiences with dyspeptic editors, nasty *ad hominem* attacks by reviewers, and overzealous copyeditors that were needlessly traumatic at the early stages of career. This does not mean guaranteed acceptance of your first manuscript of course, but it does mean we see the decision-making process as both maintaining caliber of scholarship and a pedagogical moment in graduate education.

Thanks

Elizabeth Mathews served as Editorial Assistant from 2006 to 2008, stepping down last summer. Elizabeth, as the associate editors (and many authors) will agree, was outstanding in her job. She helped set up many

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of the policies and procedures we currently use. She caught our errors, omissions, and screw-ups—often just as we were about to make them. She corresponded with distraught authors. She negotiated the often byzantine and sometime rapidly-changing world of Routledge. And she did all this while she was working on her doctorate! We want to thank Elizabeth warmly and publicly for her competence, her diligence, and her alacrity. The editorial assistant is the mainstay of the journal. Of course, Elizabeth stood in a distinguished line of exemplary editorial assistants, including Kasey Treadwell Shine, Ann-Marie Burke, Denise Grassick, and Mary Weld.

Gill Valentine has stepped down as associate editor after several years with the journal. We want to publicly thank her for all her work, her insights, and her collegiality in service to *Social & Cultural Geography*. In her editorial ‘retirement’ she joins such terrific editorial emeritus editors who were part of the original editorial team for the journal. We thank them all for their labor and support. A big thanks to all the former editorial board members over the past decade, including: Kay Anderson, Marc Brosseau, Christine Chivallon, Mike Crang, Mona Domosh, Claire Dwyer, Isabel Dyck, Iain Hay, Peter Jackson, Jane Jacobs, Janos Ladanyi, Robin Law, David Ley, Robyn Longhurst, David Matless, Doreen Mattingly, Daniel Miller, Ruth Panelli, Susan Parnell, Hester Parr, John Pickles, Rhoda Reddock, David Slater, Dina Vaiou, Stanley Waterman, and Jennifer Wolch.

Louise Glenn, Emily Deering, and Helen Orton at Routledge must also be appreciated for their ongoing support of the editorial office, in their final preparation of manuscripts for production, their technical support for our online submission system, and their marketing of the journal to key academic audiences.

We also want to thank the authors whose scholarship *is* the caliber of the journal. According to Routledge, the top-cited articles between 2003 and 2007 were: Freidberg (2003), Guthman (2003), Davidson and Milligan (2004), Philo and Parr (2003), Callard (2003), Anderson (2004), Milligan (2003), Bondi and Ferwell (2003), Hitchings (2003), and Kearnes (2003). The top downloaded articles for 2006–2007 were Thomas (2005), Davidson and Milligan (2004), Lynn-Ee Ho (2006), Jackson (2000), Crampton and Elden (2006), Podmore (2006), Waters (2002), Fox (2006), Guthman (2003), and Townsend and Townsend (2004). We thank these authors—and all others—for their contributions. Now we recognize the problematics of these counting measures (e.g. Batty 2003; Kong 1999; Yeung 2002) and encourage readers to also consider many of the uncountable ways that manuscripts get taken-up: in the classroom, in graduate student carrels, in the journal club, as well as the physicality of pulling volumes off the shelves of our libraries.

Finally, we want to thank all the anonymous reviewers who help us make decisions on manuscripts. There are far, far too many of you to name, but as Kitchin (2005c) has discussed, it has grown rather difficult to secure reviewers. Neoliberal and other pressures on faculty and graduate student time make the often thankless and unacknowledged job of refereeing a manuscript evermore stressing, despite the fact that it often doesn’t seem to ‘count’. And yet timely, constructive refereeing is truly a collegial gift to the discipline. We hope our reviewers have enjoyed the many challenging and agenda-furthering manuscripts that have crossed their virtual desks, and look forward to working with them in the future.

So, onward to another decade of *Social & Cultural Geography*. We can’t wait to see where you all bring us.

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