

# INTREPID EXPLORERS

All seminars run on **Tuesdays, 18:00 – 19:00** (unless otherwise stated) in the **Pyramid Room** (K4U.04, 4th floor, King's building, Strand Campus)

**An informal seminar series for geographers and friends to share their photos, videos, souvenirs and tales from travelling. Open to all. Bring your mug, we'll provide the coffee and biscuits!**

## Summer 2014

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April | [Frances Cleaver](#)

### **“Dilemmas of Immersion: Negotiating Ethnographic Fieldwork and Social Life”**

*In this talk I reflect on some of my experiences of doing ethnographic fieldwork in rural communities in Africa. I focus on some of the dilemmas of immersion that relate to the researchers social life and relationships and raise some of the tricky issues of overlap between personal and professional lives.*

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May | 17:30\* | [Nuttavikhom \(Kay\) Phanthuwongpakdee](#)

### **“They Say, “In Thailand, Intellectuals Fill Sand While Buffaloes Make Flood Plans.””**

*From September to December 2011, Thailand was faced with one of the most disastrous floods in its modern history – I was victim, sufferer but also, fortunately, a survivor..*

*This talk will begin with Kay's personal survival account, as an urban Bangkok dweller. Kay will then talk about the tales behind his fieldwork in Central Thailand on flood perception and adaptation of those who live with the constant risk of environmental hazards. The areas the talk will cover are Ayutthaya, Suphanburi, Pichit, Nakhon Sawan, Samut Sakorn, Bangkok and the whole Bangkok Metropolitan area. Kay will share with us his knowledge, developed during his field research, of wet-rice farming and Thai 'very messy' flood-politics. The second part of this talk will feature Kay's experience in Singapore as a joint PhD student, where he had to learn their history and become familiar with the island, its politics, and culture, in addition to how its society operates.*

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May | [Louisa Richmond-Coggan](#)

### **“The Tales of a Trainee Ecologist”**

*Louisa's ambition to become a conservation ecologist has taken her on journey with more pot holes than an African track and more twist and turns than a Nepalese mountain pass. Nevertheless the experience that she gained over the past twenty years have been worth every breakdown, puncture and animal encounter that left her covered in mud, sweat and with a racing heart.*

*Come and hear how you can go from a dorm room to the plains of the Masai Mara and beyond and what can happen when you push yourself and don't take no for an answer.*

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June | [Jamie Bunchuk](#) and Matthew Traver \*\*\*\*Room Change: K2.31, King's Building, Strand Campus\*\*\*\*

### **“The Tajik Diaries”**

*In the summer of 2013 Jamie Bunchuk and Matthew Traver embarked on a five-month expedition to Central Asia, inspired through a century-old journey undertaken by the Anglo-Irish explorer Sir Charles Howard-Bury. Nearly three years in the planning, the project would ultimately take the pair through some of the most inhospitable landscapes on the Asian continent: from the empty plains of Western Mongolia, to the rolling steppe of Kazakhstan, on to the desolate valleys of the Pamir mountains and finally the arid sands of Uzbekistan's Kyzulkum Desert.*

*This talk will feature a short presentation by Jamie about one month spent living with a hunter and herdsman near Tajikistan's remote south-eastern border with Afghanistan. Followed after by a film screening of Matthew Traver's documentary 'A Portrait of Orozbek,' on the team's time in Pamirs.*

*Please note that as this talk clashes with the World Cup we are currently in discussion with the speakers to find an alternative date, most likely earlier in the month.*

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July | [Tom Weatherley](#) and [Alastair Locke](#)

### **““Where's that?!” – Trekking and Orientation in Tajikistan or Learning Curves for Amateur Explorers”**

*3 weeks trekking in Tajikistan for a small group of friends and experienced amateur explorers was a crash course in planning, logistics, orientation and cultural communication. We'll be sharing some of our best memories and anecdotes from our trip but hope to provide as much insight as we can into life in one of the world's poorest but most welcoming of countries; the people, the landscape, its traditions, history and future prospects. We'll also share what we learnt about travelling in a country that is only just opening up to the idea of itself being a tourist destination.*