2024 RGS with IBG Call for Papers

Dear Members,

The following call for panel contributions might be of interest.

**Conference**: Annual RGS-IBG Conference 2024 (London, 27-30 August)

**Panel**: *Travel writing and historical imagery for the conservation of bio-cultural heritage*

**Convenors**: Pietro PIANA (University of Genoa), Charles WATKINS (University of Nottingham), Nicola GABELLIERI (University of Trento), Arturo GALLIA (University Roma Tre)

**Abstract**:

Geographers have made increasing use of geo-historical sources to read current landscapes and investigate the way in which they changed through time. Since the cultural turn, landscape representations (historical maps, topographical views and photographs, and written reports) have been framed within their historical, cultural, and artistic context (Cosgrove and Daniels, 1988; Barrell, 2013) in order to allow what Moreno (1990) defined as “realistic deciphering”. Scholars analysed drawings and paintings to look at rural and urban history (Daniels 2017), forestry and vegetation analysis (McLoughlin 1999), gender geographies (Rose 1993), history of transport (Piana et al. 2018), physical geography (Piana and Faccini, 2022) and ecological research (Warren et al., 2023).

Such multidisciplinary approaches benefit from the contribution of scholars of a diverse range of fields of humanities, social and hard sciences, often with the use of GIS and other digital technologies (Cooper, Gregory, 2011). In the analysis of Grand Tour travel writings of Trentino (Italian Alps) Gabellieri and Dai Prà (2021) developed a GIS-Based inventory of written documents for their precise topographical restitution in the landscape. In this context, growing attention is paid to the practical value of large-scale studies of landscape using historical imagery and travel writing in conservation and landscape management. The Cherish Project, supported by Historic England (McInnes, 2016) uses many historical images to examine coastal erosion over the last 250 years in southwest England. Other examples (including studies in the context of Italian “contratti di fiume”) relate to the use of historical images and cartography for the reconstruction of fluvial landscapes for current land management.

The session seeks to gather contributions on the use of historical imagery and written sources produced by travellers for the analysis, conservation, and management of bio-cultural heritage in rural, coastal, mountain and urban areas in Europe and worldwide.

In particular, the panel encourages contributions including but not limited to those that:

* Develop critical methodological approaches on travel sources with a multi-source perspective (e.g., cartography, iconography, descriptions);
* Present case studies on landscape analysis through the use of geohistorical travel sources;
* Examine the social context of production of this documentation, its dissemination, and reception;
* Offer reflections between the geographical discipline and visual culture;
* Apply innovative approaches to mapping, visualising, and analysing travel sources using GIS tools;
* Address cases of territorial governance and landscape management practices in relation to travel and geohistorical sources in general;
* Explore the history of tourism, delving into the intricacies of travel practices;
* Use geohistorical information for territorial enhancement with special relation to sustainable tourism development (eg. historical routes, local exhibitions, etc.)

For any questions or to submit a title and short abstract of no more than 300 words, please email pietro.piana@unige.it by Monday 19th February 2024. Please include your name, institutional affiliation and email address with your abstract.