

In its own modest way, this issue marks continued change for *Geography*, and for the Editorial Collective. It is my first editorial, and I am delighted to introduce this exciting edition. We also welcome to an expanded Collective **Dr Simon Carr**, Programme Lead for Geography at the University of Cumbria. Simon brings considerable experience in the areas of climate, glaciers and landscapes and in science communication. We look forward to working with him.

One clear connection between all the articles in this issue is an engagement with questions about change. How do communities and landscapes respond to disruptive or destructive change? How do people organise to effect change and at what scales? How does digital innovation both drive and respond to the changes we see around us? Of course, these are profoundly geographical questions.

Disasters change places, yet responses to disasters are often just as critical to the remaking of place. Simon Dickinson explores the **geographies of post-disaster landscapes** through the 2010 and 2011 Christchurch earthquakes in New Zealand. He argues that the process of recovery is not merely the task of getting 'back to normal'; instead, disasters produce 'ruptures' that shake existing orders and disrupt how people understand the place they live in. Using the example of recovery in Christchurch, Dickinson highlights how a 'new normal' emerged as people reimagined their places, with many wishing to go beyond reconstructing previous inequalities and to consider new forms of belonging.

Dickinson also alerts us to another feature of many disasters – that they may not be a single 'one-off' event with a clear 'before' and 'after'. In the case of the Christchurch earthquakes, there were some 13,000 aftershocks, and the recovery process ran alongside further damage and loss. This too shapes the remaking of place, and the way we relate to places, both during and following disasters. Amid loss, the process of recovery can provide a window of opportunity for change.

Fiona Tweed's article focuses on **Iceland and its volcanic hazards**, starting with the now famous 'ash cloud' from the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption. This caused the largest closure of European airspace since the Second World War but was it typical of Iceland's volcanoes and, beyond this significant event, should we worry about Iceland's volcanoes? To answer these questions, Tweed outlines Iceland's volcanic setting and explores recent activity and past eruptions to provide crucial information. The resulting story is one that points more to hazards of meltwater and gas rather than ash or lava; it is also a story about the importance of reliable information and communication. Misrepresentation or miscommunication of risk remains an ongoing concern. Reliable updates from Icelandic authorities, Tweed argues, can defuse 'media-fuelled anxiety'.

That an event in one locality can have global impacts is a familiar idea to geographers. A place may be an epicentre of forces that radiate out, puncture or connect to others. In this view, the global is composed of, and works through, local places. There is no separate 'global' scale somewhere else, away from the local. This is a key theme of Nick Gill, Daniel Fisher and Jo Hynes' article on **migration control and the power of local activism**. They

chart the protests that led to the closure of Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), Kidlington near Oxford, UK. IRCs are prison-like detention centres for people who are subject to immigration control. In Britain there is no time limit on how long such detention may last.

Is local activism somehow less consequential because it focused on one place? Not so, Gill and colleagues argue. Local involvement can tap into awareness of the conditions shaping a situation. This in turn can 'scale-up' to action that has far-reaching impact. The 'Close Campsfield' protestors made nation-wide connections and affected national policy, with implications for global campaigns. Global governance is not shaped at an abstracted 'global level', nor as a world apart from local change and activism.

Such cross-scale activity is also seen in Jon Swords, Mike Jeffries, Holly East and Sebastian Messer's article on **participatory mapping with young people**. They highlight how the maps with which we are familiar are designed and used, in the main, by adults. Through a large-scale project they have worked with young people to produce over 1400 maps that depict how they see and engage with the world. The goal is for young people's particular experiences to be considered in city design.

Maps are powerful story-telling devices. While they may aid navigation and decision-making they can also hide or distort. No single map can convey the full richness of any place. The young people's maps open up insight into their spatial reach and how this is inflected by their digital lives. It will be fascinating to follow this project to see how the maps inform urban planning and decision-making.

Digital terrains intersect and overlay many of the young people's mapped lives. They also provide opportunities to enter into unfamiliar landscapes. We see the power of this in Derek McDougall's 'Spotlight on' article, **VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes**. McDougall makes the case for why we should study glaciated landscapes, yet lack of access or familiarity with such places may be one of the reasons they are less studied at A level. The article demonstrates how virtual reality (VR) is providing a new kind of access to and immersion in these landscapes.

Virtual fieldwork is a growing feature of many undergraduate degrees course also. While this shouldn't be used as a cost-cutting alternative to first-hand fieldwork, the benefits can be significant, especially for students who might not otherwise be able to access the spaces. Indeed, for all students, it can enhance capacities to read and understand such landscapes as well as help to reduce the problems of carbon emissions from travelling to such locations, and allow students to visualise change over time.

This issue's second 'Spotlight on' article focuses on **The Global Wetland Outlook report**. Authors Stephen Tooth and Bennie van der Waal outline how humans impact on a vast range of terrestrial and marine environments before signalling how wetlands provide a particularly important way to understand these effects. While there is understandable concern for global forest loss, wetlands are disappearing three times faster, and, based on the report, Tooth and van der Waal argue they are not appropriately valued by policy and

decision-makers. They also highlight the lack of attention to ephemeral wetlands – seasonal wetlands in dryland areas – which can be disproportionately important for their ecosystems.

The final article, by Tony Champion, asks **how many extra people should London be planning for** and considers the uncertainty in the ONS's population projections. There was a significant difference in the 25-year projections from 2014 and 2016, not only in scale but direction of the trend. The article explores the two reasons for this: first, a slowdown in London's growth between 2014 and 2016, and, second, changes in projection methodology. Champion suggests that both are important and that further improvements to the methodology could provide a more robust basis for the projections.

Projecting and responding to change, whether gradual or sudden, is clearly challenging. Seeking to bring about change or make the most of 'windows of opportunity' likewise. I think this issue demonstrates the roles that geographers can play in posing questions, understanding change and in imagining and enacting more hopeful futures.

Dr Matt Finn