

Ben Clifford – Academic Curriculum Vitae

Personal details

- Full name: Mr Benjamin Peter Clifford
- Work address: Department of Geography, King's College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS, UK; telephone 020 7848 1204; e-mail: benjamin.clifford@kcl.ac.uk
- Nationality: British

Narrative summary

Ben Clifford is a human geographer with research interests centred on urban and environmental governance and policy, town planning, and the changing spaces of professionalism and the public sector in an age of neoliberalizing governance. He brings a broad background in, and appreciation of, geography as a discipline alongside proven inter-disciplinary skills across the social sciences. Whilst completing his PhD he has gained considerable teaching and publication experience as well as time spent seeing the policy process in action in central Government.

Current post and education

- **PhD Research Student, Department of Geography, King's College London, UK**
(Sept 2004 – Present)
 - *Title of PhD*: "Planning at the Coalface: Local Authority Planners and Planning Reform in an Age of Neoliberalizing Governance"
 - *Supervisors*: Prof David Demeritt and Dr Mike Raco
 - *Funding*: ESRC-ODPM (now ESRC-CLG) PhD studentship
 - *Expected completion date*: January 2009 (NB: during this period I have also been on an ESRC institutional visit and a period of consultancy employment, details below)
- **BSc (Hons) (First Class) in Geography, University of St Andrews, UK**
(Sept 2000 – June 2004)

Research interests

- Impacts of modernising local government and neoliberalizing governance on the public sector, professions and community engagement
- British urban and environmental management and policy
- Urban development and regeneration
- Conflicts over space, particularly in the light of development pressures and "economic versus environmental" disputes
- Media representations of town planning and town planners

Publications

- CLIFFORD, B.P. "We Can't Even Plant Trees Anymore': British Town Planners' Reactions to Public Participation", in review with *Environment and Planning A*
- TEWDWR-JONES, M and CLIFFORD, B.P. "Between Recreated Past and Threatening Future: Representing Urban Planning in Post-War British Media", accepted by *Planning*

Theory and Practice subject to revisions

- CLIFFORD, B.P. (2007a). "A Cause for Concern" in *Town and Country Planning*, June/July 2007, pp 203-204.
- CLIFFORD, B.P. (2007b) "Writeback" in *Town and Country Planning*, August 2007, p 228.
- CLIFFORD, B. P. (2007c). Planning at the Coalface: The Planner's Perspective Survey - Preliminary Results. Department of Geography, King's College London. ISBN 978-0-904547-21-4.
- CLIFFORD, B.P. (2006) "'Only a Town Planner Would Run a Toxic Waste Pipeline Through a Recreational Area': Planning and Planners in the British Press" in *Town Planning Review*, 77 (4), pp 423-455
- CLIFFORD, B.P. and WARREN, C.R. (2005). "Development and the Environment: Perception and Opinion in St Andrews, Scotland" in *Scottish Geographical Journal*, 121 (4), pp 355-384.

Grants

- ESRC Institutional Visit grant. 3 month grant and extension to PhD to cover a work placement at the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). Extra £3,135 for stipend. Sept 2007.
- University of London Central Research Fund. £500 awarded to support travel and accommodation expenses whilst interviewing planners across Great Britain. Jan 2006.
- Economic and Social Research Council and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now CLG). PhD studentship. Sept 2005.
- King's College London. Social Science & Public Policy PhD studentship. Sept 2004.

Consultancy

- Higher Executive Officer, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). May 08 to Aug 08 (3 months suspended from PhD). In this research and advisory post, I was asked to provide policy advice and join the secretariat of the Killian Pretty Review, a national review of the planning system sponsored by BERR and CLG.
- British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA). Sept 2006 – May 2008. I have undertaken a number of small, paid projects for BURA including a literature reviews and producing summary reports about conferences.

Conference and guest lecture presentations

- CLIFFORD, B.P. and HOLDEN, K. "Geography, Neoliberalism and the Ethics of the Academic Self" at *RGS-IBG Annual International Conference*, London (UK), Aug 2008
- CLIFFORD, B.P. "The Planner, the Bureaucrat, the Public Servant and the Subject of Neoliberal Reforms" at *The Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting*, Boston (USA), April 2008
- CLIFFORD, B.P. "Planning at the Coalface", guest lecture at the University of Bournemouth, Nov 2007
- CLIFFORD, B.P. "'A NIMBY Charter' or 'The Cornerstone of Good Planning'?: Views on Community Engagement from the Coalface of the Planning Profession" at *The RGS-IBG Annual International Conference*, London (UK), Aug 2007

- CLIFFORD, B.P. "The Planner's Tale: The Sharp End of Delivering a British Urban Renaissance" at *The AAG Annual Meeting*, San Francisco (USA), April 2007
- CLIFFORD, B.P. "The Planner's Eye View: A Renaissance for British Urban Planning?" at *The RGS-IBG Annual International Conference*, London (UK), Aug 2006
- CLIFFORD, B.P. and TEWDWR-JONES, M. "Between Recreated Past and Threatening Future: Representing Urban Planning in Post-War British Media" at *The Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting*, Chicago (USA), March 2006
- TEWDWR-JONES, M. and CLIFFORD, B.P. "Complexity and Interdependence in Blair's Spatial Governance: Political Tensions and Modernization Agendas for the New Localism" at *The Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting*, Chicago (USA), March 2006
- CLIFFORD, B.P. "Only a Town Planner Would Run a Toxic Waste Pipeline Through a Recreational Area: A Comparative Press Survey of Planners and Planning in the Local, National and Regional Media" at *The Power of Planning: the Reform Agenda (Planning Research Conference)*, University of Manchester (UK), April 2004.

Teaching interests

- Town planning as a form of applied geography
- Urban and environmental management and governance
- British urban policy and regeneration
- Research methods, including quantitative skills and use of SPSS
- Basic cartography

Teaching experience

- **Tutor in Geography, King's College London**
(Sept 2005 – present)
 - Teach small groups (6 students) on first year undergraduate general Human Geography course, covering generic academic skills (such as essay writing) as well as supporting the introductory Human Geography lectures (e.g. colonialism, globalization, environmental behaviour).
 - Teach classes (20-30 students) to support lectures on third year undergraduate History and Philosophy of Geography course.
 - Demonstrated on first year data analysis course (Autumn 2005)
 - On the Histories and Philosophies of Geography course, over 95% of students completed the 2006 or 2007 surveys rated me excellent or very good on all questions
- **Teaching Assistant in Geography, London School of Economics (LSE)**
(Sept 2005 – Apr 2008)
 - Taught classes (20-30 students) to support lectures on second year course "Political Geographies, Policy and Space" (covering urban policy from the growth of physical planning, social and economic approaches to urban problems and the new urbanism)
 - Taught classes (20-30 students) to support lectures on third year course "Urban Development: Politics, Policy and Planning" (covering urban politics including influence of business, fiscal problems, city marketing and restructuring British local government)
 - At the LSE, 100% of the students completing the 2006 and 2007 teaching survey rated me as very good or excellent in the way I structured classes and in the feedback I gave on written work.

Other academic and administrative activities

- Organizer of KCL Cities Seminar series, Sept 2006 – Sept 2008.
- Organizer of London Human Geography PhD Training Programme, April 2008.
- Social Secretary for the KCL Geography Department, Sept 2005 – present.
- Organizer of session on “The Spaces of Bureaucracy” at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, April 2008
- Organizer of panel session on “Geography, Neoliberalism and the Ethics of the Academic Self” at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference, August 2008.

Prizes, Medals and Learned Societies

- Awarded the Royal Scottish Geographical Society University Medal (Silver Medal) for top graduating students in Geography from Scottish universities (December 2004)
- Awarded the McIver Class Medal for best Honours student in Geography by the University of St Andrews (June 2004)
- Awarded the Mathieson Prize for distinguished work on the Geography of Scotland by the University of St Andrews (June 2004)
- Awarded the George Cumming Memorial Prize for being a student of merit by the University of St Andrews (June 2004)
- Awarded the Graduates’ Prize for academic achievement in Geography by the University of St Andrews (June 2001)
- Young Fellow / Postgraduate Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) (Sept 1998 – present)

Other interests

- **Special Constable with the British Transport Police**
(Jan 2006 – present)
This position involves serving for 200 hours per annum as a volunteer police officer on the national rail network with numerous opportunities for training and development.

Referees

- **Professor David Demeritt**
Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, King’s College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS; e-mail david.demeritt@kcl.ac.uk; telephone 020 7848 2622
- **Professor Mark Tewdwr-Jones**
Professor of Spatial Planning and Governance, Bartlett School of Planning, University College London, Wates House, 22 Gordon Street, London, WC1H 0QB;
e-mail m.tewdwr-jones@ucl.ac.uk; telephone 020 7679 4873
- **Dr Mike Raco**
Reader in Human Geography, Department of Geography, King’s College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS; e-mail mike.raco@kcl.ac.uk; telephone 020 7848 2865
- **Mr Eamon Mythen**
Senior Planning Officer, CLG, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU;
e-mail eamon.mythen@communities.gsi.gov.uk; telephone 020 7944 8873