

INTREPID EXPLORERS

All seminars run on **Thursdays, 13:00 – 14:00** (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!

Spring 2016

Thursday 28th January | Eleanor Drinkwater

“How not to get lost in a rainforest or eaten by a shark: a beginner’s guide”

Having camped in a palm viper breeding ground, been chased by cows through a Peruvian river system, regularly savaged by “harmless” invertebrates and worked alongside Bermuda shark fishers, Eleanor has discovered that the tropics can be a little unpredictable. In this talk she will share her passion for the unexplored corners of the world whilst providing practical expedition advice on common problems.

Thursday 11th February | Richard Milburn

“Guns, Gorillas and Games”

As an avid lover of the natural world, Richard’s research has been focussed on wildlife conservation in warzones. This has taken him to the Congo to find out more about the gorillas and the guerrillas in that country, as well as to South Africa and India. This talk focuses on his time in the Democratic Republic of Congo working on and researching gorilla conservation in that country and neighbouring Rwanda. He will talk about the magical experiences of visiting the gorillas, the difficulties of protecting them and getting tourists to visit in what remains an insecure country.

Thursday 25th February | Ben Andrews and Hugo Pedder

“To the Sea, Rafting through the Swedish Wilderness”

Ben and Hugo met on a three month expedition in Svalbard in 2008. Since then they have teamed up on several adventures and are currently embarking on an Expedition Series called “To The Sea”. This talk will tell the tale of a raft called Sorsele which began its journey made from salvaged material in a north Swedish hamlet. Costing only £10, it survived its first test along the Vindel River. Warm memories of the rich and wonderful history of the river and its distinct communities have led to Ben and Hugo returning every year since to continue the journey. This talk will use films, pictures and memories to discuss the history of the river and their passion for do-it-yourself expeditions.

Thursday 10th March | Nando Lewis

“Growing up with hunter-gatherers in Congo-Brazzaville: Family, Fieldwork and Relationships”

Nando spent three years with the Mbendjele hunter-gatherers in Congo-Brazzaville whilst his father completed his PhD fieldwork from 1994-97. Nando will focus on the good - bonding with an orphaned gorilla; the bad – entering UK schooling as an illiterate seven year old; and the essential – the radio that told them the country had descended into civil war. His current PhD research uses remote sensing and statistics to understand and forecast the impact that food security, water security and forced migration could have on civil conflict in marginal environments within the African continent. Nando will draw on his experiences researching and travelling as a family member, with and without his partner to give his thoughts on fieldwork, families and relationships.

Thursday 24th March | Faith Taylor

“Lilongwe le long way – adventures in Malawi and Kenya”

Faith is one of the co-founders of Intrepid Explorers, but has a dark secret that most of her research actually takes place from the comfort of a computer screen! So, she was delighted when she got the opportunity to work as a postdoctoral research associate on the Urban Africa Risk Knowledge project. Most of Faith’s work centres on simple and open source GIS solutions to understand and forecast natural disasters.