

Applications should be returned to The Registrar, ESRC, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1UJ, **BY 08 JANUARY 2008** (applications postmarked by 4pm on this date will be accepted). Applications must be completed in typescript and signed in black ink. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: This form is to be used for the Research Seminars Competition 2007/8 only. Prior to completing this form, please read through the Guidance Notes 2007/2008 document and the current edition of the **ESRC Research Funding** booklet, available from http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/research_funding/index.aspx

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER'S DETAILS

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Signature:	

ADMINISTERING INSTITUTION

Applicant's department:	Division of Geography		
Institution:	Northumbria University		
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Authorising signature:		Date:	3 rd January 2008
Name:	Professor Julie Mennell		
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Official stamp of administering institution:			

CO-APPLICANT DETAILS (see note 3)

Dr Kye Askins, Senior Lecturer, Division of Geography, Northumbria University.
 Professor Noel Castree, Professor, Department of Geography, Manchester University.
 Dr Paul Chatterton, Senior Lecturer, School of Geography, University of Leeds.
 Dr Ian Cook, Associate Professor, School of Geography, Archaeology and Earth Resources, University of Exeter.
 Dr David Featherstone, Lecturer, Department of Geography, Liverpool University.
 Mr Richard Kotter, Senior Lecturer, Division of Geography, Northumbria University.
 Dr Stuart Hodkinson, British Academy Post-doctoral Research Fellow, School of Geography, University of Leeds.
 Professor David Lambert, Chief Executive, Geographical Association / Professor, Institute of Education, London.
 Ms Jo Norcup, Lecturer in Geography, Language Centre, University College London.
 Dr Peter North, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, Liverpool University.
 Professor Phil O'Keefe, Professor of Environmental Management and Economic Development, Northumbria University.
 Dr Rachel Pain, Reader in Human Geography, Department of Geography, Durham University.
 Dr Jenny Pickerill, Lecturer, Department of Geography, Leicester University.
 Mr Daniel Raven-Ellison, Leader Geography teacher (11-16), Langtree School, Oxfordshire.
 Dr Catherine Souch, Head of Research and Higher Education, Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, London.
 Professor Chris Turney, Professor of Physical Geography, Department of Geography, University of Exeter.
 Dr Kathryn Yusoff, Lecturer in Human (and Non-Human) Geography, School of Geography Archaeology & Earth Resources, University of Exeter

TITLE OF PROPOSED SEMINAR SERIES/GROUP
Engaging geography

Start date (on or after 1st October 2008)	1 st October 2008
End date	30 th September 2010
Proposed duration in months (maximum duration 24 months)	24 months
Number of events (4-6 per series)	6
Proposed location(s) of activity	Newcastle, Exeter, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and London – precise venues in these locations to be confirmed
Total funds requested from ESRC (see notes 7,8 and 9)	17,900

Is this application interdisciplinary or single-discipline? (see note 6) (please tick as appropriate) ✓			
Interdisciplinary?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Discipline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discipline codes: in order of priority (see note 6)			
07 (GEOG)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is the seminar group 'new' or 'established'? (see note 4) (please tick as appropriate) ✓			
New	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Established	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the seminar group received ESRC funding before? (see note 5) please tick as appropriate			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have the organisers received ESRC funding before? (see note 5) please tick as appropriate			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

*the principal applicant has not; some of the co-applicants have.

FUNDING REQUESTED FROM ESRC (Do no include co-funding, see notes 7,8 and 9)
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FEES (Fees to speakers and organisers will only be paid in exceptional circumstances and such requests must be strongly justified)		
DETAILS	AMOUNT	
	Year 1	Year 2
	0	0

TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE: UK (Payable at institutional rates. Please break down by seminar and indicate approximate dates that expenses will be incurred)			
DETAILS		AMOUNT	
		Year 1	Year 2
Speakers	Two speakers per seminar @£100pp Three seminars per year in autumn, spring and summer terms.	600	600
Participants	20 participants per seminar travel @ £50pp 10 participants per seminar accommodation @ £70	3000 2100	3000 2100

TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE: OVERSEAS (Please break down by seminar and indicate approximate dates that expenses will be incurred)			
DETAILS		AMOUNT	
		Year 1	Year 2
Speakers	Two overseas speakers @ £800pp One seminar each year	800	800
Participants		0	0

SECRETARIAL (Please indicate number of hours x £ per hour. Indirect costs are ineligible)			
DETAILS		AMOUNT	
		Year 1	Year 2
	20 hours at £10 per hour per year. It is intended that some of the secretarial support will be directed towards facilitation of the dissemination process identified in Section B	200	200

STATIONERY, POSTAGE, PHOTOCOPYING, TELEPHONE (Please cost each item separately)		
DETAILS	AMOUNT	
	Year 1	Year 2
Postage	50	50
Photocopying	50	50
Telephone	50	50

HIRE OF ROOMS, EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES (Please indicate basis of cost and state venue of seminars. Please note that claims cannot be made against the cost of hiring facilities belonging to the organising HEI)		
DETAILS	AMOUNT	
	Year 1	Year 2
Four non-HEI venue hires @ £300 per day – precise venues to be confirmed	600	600

TOTAL COST REQUESTED FROM ESRC (Please ensure that this is the total cost of the amounts requested in each of the above sections. Do not include co-funding)	£14900
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OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT: Please give details of other support or co-funding (see note 7). Do not include these costs in the section above.
<p>The co-applicants host institutions will offer room hire (where appropriate), coffee/tea and a buffet lunch as a contribution to the seminar series.</p> <p>The series is supported by both of the main professional associations for the discipline of geography – the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers (Higher Education and Academic/Professional Geography-focused) and the Geographical Association (school Geography-focused). Neither organisation has funds allocated for this type of initiative, with the RGS funding individuals (via awards for data acquisition or pump-priming of initiatives) or established Research Groups (such as the Participatory Geographies Working Group, which is well-represented in the bid). Similarly the Geographical Association has a number of different awards and funds but most are relatively small in scale and available for specific projects focused around such themes as field work support, or aspects of geographical education, such as the Bradfords Awards for departmental innovation in secondary schools. However both organisations have offered their support through participation in the series as co-applicants and network members, and via offers of support in kind such as in promoting seminar series events and in disseminating regular updates concerning the various outputs produced across their membership networks and affiliates.</p> <p>The applicants are also intending applying for the British Academy’s scheme for conference support.</p>

A **Non-Technical Summary:** Please provide a brief non-technical summary, indicating the aims and objectives of the seminar series (see note 16). This should be a broad overview of the intellectual background to the proposal. This section should not exceed one page.

This seminar series aims to explore and respond to two key challenges facing the discipline of geography in 2008 and beyond: the 'state' of the discipline, its disciplinary identity and public face, lack of interaction between academic, school, and other geographers, and the perceived inability to engage with and influence the world and public(s) 'out there' (see Castree et al, 2007); and the increasing calls for academics to play more prominent public roles outside their ivory tower offices, at a time of developing growth in 'public' variants of many social science disciplines (see Attwood, 2007).

In recent years geographers have begun to explore the work of Michael Burawoy (2005), the rise of 'public sociology', and the forms any 'public geography' might take (Ward, 2005, 2006; Castree, 2006; Fuller and Askins, 2007; Fuller, forthcoming). Public sociology 'brings sociology into a conversation with publics, understood as people who are themselves involved in conversation' (Burawoy, 2005: 263) and has two main sub-forms – 'traditional' and 'organic'. The former includes the production of books by sociologists that are read by those 'beyond the academy'; newspaper articles and column writing, where sociologists comment on matters of 'public importance'; and/or journalists acting as a conduit, playing a key role in shifting academic research into the public realm. In all these traditional forms the public sociologist gets things started, acts as a catalyst, but does not necessarily get involved. In contrast, in the latter (organic) form work is undertaken 'in close connection with a visible, thick, active, local and often counter-public', engaging in 'dialogue', or what Burawoy terms 'a process of mutual education' (2005: 264-5). Whilst there are possible examples of 'traditional' public geography, including 'classics' such as Bunge (1971) and Harvey (1973) alongside more recent public-ly oriented works by Gould (1990; 1993), Monmonier (1996), Harvey (2003), Retort (2004) Smith (2005), Diamond (2005), all of which emphasise the potential importance of *style* and *strategy* as much as *substance* in reaching out and engaging with publics (Castree, 2006; Fuller, forthcoming), much organic public geography (like organic public sociology) remains hidden from view, not least as a consequence (according to Burawoy) of days being filled with the undertaking of such activities, leaving little time to actually document them. Burawoy notes that a key task of any public sociology, then, is to 'make visible the invisible, to make the private public, [and] to validate these organic connections as part of our sociological life...' because such organic work is often treated as 'private', 'invisible' and/or separate from 'our professional lives' (ibid.). It is no coincidence therefore that it is in this more 'organic' sense that there has been some cohesion (and increasing appetite) around explorations of what constitutes *new public geographies* (Chilvers et al, 2006), increasing awareness of such engaging interventions as the People's Geography Project, the Open University's 'Interdependence Day' project, the Living Wage Campaign, and the development and recognition of a wide variety of 'alternative' forms of engagement and dissemination practice (including, for example, video work, radio broadcasts, interactive websites, podcasts, blogs, pamphlets, sticker campaigns and so on).

This seminar series strives to dramatically extend awareness, and understanding of the myriad ways in which geographers can (and do) engage with publics, and extend the potential for further meaningful engagements. It has the following main aims and objectives:

- To make visible the invisible, to make the private public, [and] to validate the organic connections of these 'new public geographies' which can be characterised as being animated by, and representative of, an attitude, a position, an outlook, a stance or perspective of *how to do* geographies that engage, at least, if not more than *what* those geographies should actually be concerned with, issue-wise;
- To encourage debate around, and furtherance of public geographies as strategic, overt, visible, authenticating, recognising, unrestrained, communicative, engaging, and necessarily outreaching.

In striving to achieve this aim the series as a whole has the following key objectives:

- To explore how best to connect and engage with a variety of publics;
- To explore practical ways of enhancing a multi-faceted, effective and mutually beneficial programme of engagement, dialogue, mutual education and dissemination of geographical knowledge;
- To reflect on the degree, meaningfulness and quality of public interaction, the extent to which anyone might actually want to a) listen to what academics/geographers have to say or interact with what they do, and b) *respond to it*, and to identify the best ways, approaches and practical examples of effecting such interactions; and
- To identify and explore the potential for mutually beneficial links with different publics, the forms of approach, ways of doing, and more and less appropriate forms of engagement in each case, and to capacity build the resultant network and introduce new members, both new and more established, who would take the identified agenda forward through a number of future funded projects, interventions and activities.

This seminar series, therefore, will embody the need for interaction, engagement and conversation that underpins public geography as a whole, and will play a key role in furthering the ability of, potential for, and desire for geographers playing a role 'out there' with public(s) in years to come.

B Seminar Proposal: Please provide a brief description of the scientific context and content of the proposed seminar series (see section 17 and 18). This should include reference to the main literature of the area and how the seminar relates to it. A description of expected outputs or plans for dissemination should also be included. This section should not exceed 2 pages.

In order to meet the aims and objectives for the series as a whole a programme of six ‘seminars’ will explore the links between engaging geography and a variety of publics as follows:

1. *‘How did that happen?’ The creation of time and space for public geographies*

This innovative, introductory event conducted using a participatory/open space format over a 24-hour period has the aim of identifying common themes and issues about ‘new public geography’ through ‘presentations’ and interventions of varying types and forms focused on exploring ‘how did that happen?’. The convenors will facilitate the inclusion of as wide a constituency of ‘geographers’ as possible, and create time and space for discussion around stories of engagements, the lives of engaging geographical work beyond publication(s), the initiation of enduring relationships and research, harnessing unexpected events and contacts, changing research, issues of communication/translation, creating space and time for these committed relations to work, successes and failures, and perceptions of those on ‘the receiving end’ of geographical engagements, with a particular focus on exploring how publics value the time and expertise of geographers.

2 *Geographers, artists and their publics.*

In recent years, an increasing number of geographers and artists have worked collaboratively, broadening the remit of research and its outputs beyond the traditional texts and spaces of university education. This event will explore the collaborative potentials, working practices, forms and spaces of engagement, and publics generated through recent academic/artistic work on climate change, GM foods, animal geographies, ethical/sustainable consumption and postcolonial curating through a variety of project work underpinned by academic/artist collaborations.

3 *Activist Geographies: developing collaborating research priorities with social movements*

If those committed to geographical participatory action-research are to be truly participatory and public-oriented, then an urgent task is to collaborate fully with research users in the formulation of priorities for action-research. An urgent priority for ‘activist-geographers’, then, is to address the question of how research priorities are formulated and carried out with activists, those engaged in social struggles and social movement groups more generally. The event will bring together representatives from all of these communities of interest to explore how research priorities can be best articulated and implemented by those ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ of the academy to address the concrete needs and situations of social movement struggles for a better world. The event will involve testimonies from those involved in particular campaign groups, and interactive sessions on how to formulate and implement action research priorities and projects.

4 *Geographies and policy*

Do policy makers take any notice of geographers’ expertise on what are quite explicitly geographical issues (such as inequality, climate change and development)? Are geographers willingly obtuse and prone to using inaccessible, irrelevant language? Do geographers focus on abstract issues of concern to the academy, but of little relevance to dealing with real world issues? This event will bring together academics interested in working in policy-relevant but critical ways in a discussion with members of research consultancies, ‘think tanks’ and government researchers to discuss how geographers might maintain their independence and ability to make fundamental critiques, while ensuring that their research has more of an impact on real life issues.

5 *Border crossings – geographies in schools*

There was a time where university and pre-university geography were closely connected in the British system - for instance, as recently as the mid-1980s university geographers played a central role in determining the old O and A level syllabi (both content and assessment). However, over the last twenty years pre-university geography has lost significant points of connection with post-18 geography. This event will attempt to cross the borders (Castree et al, 2007) between these different spheres of geographical education, and explore the potential for collaborative ventures that seek to embed a collective vision of (public) geography futures, taking inspiration from such ventures as the ‘Give Geography its Place’ campaign, ‘Juicy Geography’, and ‘Guerilla Geography’ initiatives.

6 *Communicating public geographies...*

The final event in the series aims to bring together the themes and ideas developed in the series through a focus on the issues of dissemination, communication and living geographies. Hosted at the Institution of Education in London the event will explore issues of both style and substance, formation and formation of effective, meaningful and impact-laden approaches to communicating geographies through such initiatives as the Living Geography and Community geography project, professional geographies, geographical community outreach (The City Centre project), and innovative media. It will conclude the series through the identification of a range of easy to achieve/high impact actions and practical initiatives to be undertaken by network members to further extend the potential for future engaging public geography interventions.

References:

- Attwood, R. (2007) 'Academics told to push intellectual credentials'. *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, Apr 13, 1.
- Bunge W. (1971) *Fitzgerald: geography of a revolution*. Cambridge, Mass: Schenkman
- Burawoy, M. (2005): 2004 presidential address: For public sociology. *American Sociological Review* 70, 4-28.
- Castree, N. (2006) 'Geography's new public intellectuals', *Antipode*, 38, 2: 396-412.
- Castree, N., Fuller, D. and Lambert, D. (2007) 'Geography without borders'. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 32, 2, 129-132
- Chilvers, J., Cook, I., Griffiths, H. and Morris, R. (2006) 'New public geographies?' Paper presented in the *Public Sociologies? Public Geographies?* Session of the RGS-IBG 2006 Annual Conference
- Diamond, J. (2005) *Collapse: how societies choose to fail or survive*. New York and London: Viking Penguin/Allen Lane.
- Fuller, D. and Askins, K. (2007) 'The discomfiting rise of 'public geographies' – a 'public' conversation'. *Antipode*, 39, 4, 579-601.
- Fuller, D. (forthcoming) 'Public geographies 1 – Taking stock'. *Progress in Human Geography*.
- Gould, P. (1990) *Fire in the Rain: The Democratic Consequences of Chernobyl*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press
- Gould, P. (1993) *The Slow Plague: A Geography of the AIDS Pandemic*. Cambridge: Blackwell.
- Harvey, D. (1973) *Social Justice and the City*. Baltimore, Md: The Johns Hopkins University Press
- Harvey, D. (2003) *The New Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Monmonier, M. S. (1996) *How to lie with maps*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Retort (2004) *Afflicted powers: Capital and spectacle in a new age of war*. London: Verso.
- Smith, N. (2005) *The endgame of globalization*. New York: Routledge
- Ward, K. (2005) 'Geography and public policy: a recent history of policy-relevance' *Progress in Human Geography* 29 310-319.
- Ward, K. (2006) 'Geography and public policy: towards public geographies'. *Progress in Human Geography* 30 495-503.

Expected outputs / plans for disseminations

As might be expected given the focus of the series, the need for a multi-faceted and effective programme of engagement and dissemination is of paramount importance to all the convenors and contributors to the series – indeed the exploration of how best to achieve these elements in practical terms represents a key aim of the series. It is therefore intended that the plans for dissemination will be multifarious, and the expected output forms multiple and varied, with some forms of dissemination left open to emerge during the course of the series. There will be a dedicated website for the seminar series hosted by Northumbria University which will disseminate all materials produced during the series. Both the Royal Geographical Society, and Geographical Association will facilitate the dissemination of seminar series news and materials to their members, networks and beyond, and the various geography email discussion lists (such as the JISCmail-based Critical Geography Forum) and Staffordshire Learning Net geography discussion forum will also be utilised to keep interested parties regularly updated. In the more traditional sense a 3,000 word 'event report' will be written for each of the seminars drawing out key themes that emerge, areas for future discussion. Each seminar will aim to grow a network to take one aspect of the wider agenda forward through, for example, writing a working paper or academic article, identifying further funding sources, or applying for funding for a discrete research project where one can be identified.

Clearly, however, the series team will strive to complement these outputs with a range of more organic-focused disseminations, both during and after the series has been completed. These forms will include the following, each initiative being driven forward by different members of the seminar series steering group:

- A series of engaging and accessibly written 'findings' based on those produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, in edited sections of journals or special editions, and in shorter pieces aimed at activist and practitioner audiences;
- A series blog, designed to open access to debate, discussion and materials beyond the academic community, as well as video clips and audio recordings of each seminar, and a special 'public research exchange' feature through which academics and citizen groups can match their action-research priorities;
- An open source 'public geographies' short book series akin to the Geographical Association's 'Changing Geography' book series where academics write for school-level audiences and beyond;
- A series of populist-oriented pamphlets focused on providing non-technical stimulation to generate awareness of, discussion and debate around key geographical issues;
- A series of 'thoughtsheets' on ways to generate discussion and debate around key geographical issues, and how to connect these issues to local geographies and communities;
- A series of themed articles in Teaching Geography underpinned by collaborations between academics/teachers that aim to build links across school/HE geography and provide stimulation/resources on key areas of school geography curriculum; and
- Focused and strategic support for local, grassroots action to develop working models of innovative local action.

C **Involving Research Users:** ESRC places special emphasis on meeting the needs of users of research findings. Where appropriate, please state the non-academic user communities (e.g. industry, government departments) to which the seminar group meetings will be relevant and provide details of how they will be involved in meetings of the seminar group (see note 19 and 20). This section should not exceed one page.

A key reason for this seminar series application concerns the need to involve those beyond the academy in helping to frame how academic geographers contribute effectively to issues of modern public interest and concern, alongside a desire to increase public interest and concern in areas of significance to modern geographers. The proposed series is therefore explicitly constructed around and focused upon exploring how a variety of publics (potential user communities) can be best interacted and engaged with, through events that will bring together contributors and participants from a wide range of non-academic backgrounds. Further, it is intended that where possible the individual events will take place in a variety of non-university-based settings, and will be conducted using a variety of exciting, innovative and inclusive formats.

The applicants have considerable experience of involving research users in their work, and are familiar with what works in this regard and why. Fuller, the principal applicant, is current Chair of the Participatory Geographies Working Group of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), and Director of PEANuT (Participatory Evaluation and Appraisal in Newcastle upon Tyne – www.northumbria.ac.uk/peanut) which has a range of experience and expertise in facilitating a variety of forms of civic engagement, perhaps broadly defined as embodying the facilitation of individual and collective actions designed to identify and do something about issues of public concern.

Other co-applicants represent a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds and areas of interest and expertise. All are engaged in diverse forms of geographical outreach and exchange between academics, policy practitioners and evaluators, members of think tanks and research institutes, and those engaged in implementation on the ground. For example North worked at the Local Economy Policy Unit at South Bank University from 1998-2002 organising a range of well-received seminars and high profile events, Castree is Chair of the 2008 RGS-IBG annual conference and co-editor of the international journal *Antipode*, Souch is Head of Research and Higher Education, Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, Lambert is Chief Executive of the Geographical Association, Chatterton, Pickerill and Hodkinson have been engaged in research into autonomous geographies, Chatterton and Hodkinson have pioneered the development of the MA in Activism and Social Change at Leeds University, the country's first dedicated Masters programme for the theory and practice of social activism, that brings together academic and practitioners in the delivery of teaching, and offers students unique action research dissertation placements with social movement groups, and Hodkinson also now has a three-year action-research programme with UK housing activists, Pain is involved in the Durham Phoenix Programme, a collaboration between One North East, Durham University and community groups across the region aiming to bring outreach programmes and research expertise of Durham University to bear on a collaborative and community-based programme of regeneration, Cook is editor of *Geography Compass*, was part of the Birmingham University based Public Geographies Working Group and has been involved in various innovative collaborations exploring the potential for border pedagogy in teaching practice and the everyday geographies of connected lives, Norcup has been engaged in a variety of geographical 'border crossings' with writing and creating resources as a school geography teacher, freelance geography education resource writer and geography educator in exclusion unit in SE London, and is now researching the lives and afterlives of the journal series *Contemporary Issues in Geography and Education*, which is participatory and actively engaging across various geographical education spaces and scales, whilst also forming part of the Citizenship Working group of Geographical Association, and Raven-Ellison has been heading up the recent 'Give Geography its Place' and Guerrilla Geographies campaigns. We need the formal offer of funding for the seminar series to take the agenda around extending and facilitating such engagements more broadly across the academy forward. Each member will utilise such links in drawing together participants in the series in disseminating materials from the seminars and in taking forward initiatives that develop accordingly.

We aim to raise awareness of the seminar series through the wide variety of different networks that we collectively belong to, or are aware of through our work. A series steering group will be formed from the co-applicants and members of various user groups/communities (specified below). The steering group will be formed to manage the seminar programme and to firm up the topics for discussion building on the work the co-applicants have been able to do given their limited resources, but strengthening it significantly given the opportunity for engagement in a funded, concrete process that will be attractive to non-academics with limited time, resources, and a preference for the practical. Members of the teaching community will be identified through pre-existing networks (such as the Geographical Association, the membership organisation for teaching practitioners, and other less formal networks and discussion fora such as Staffordshire Learning Network). These agencies/fora will help identify practitioners who will be interested in participating in the discussions, and in helping us to disseminate the findings to their members through articles in their publications and on their websites. Short agenda setting discussion pieces will be produced for relevant geographical teaching journals such as 'Geography', 'Teaching Geography', and 'Geographical Magazine' which will raise awareness of the issues and invite participation from teaching practitioners.

D Participation Policy: Please indicate the status, relevant background and, where possible, identity and firmness of commitment of your proposed speakers and participants. These participants should be drawn from a variety of sources, including people outside the host region and postgraduate students. Plans for publicity, for identification of participants and for maintaining contact with participants should be stated here (see note 21-23). This section should not exceed one page.

As noted above each event will be targeted at a mixed academic and non-academic/practitioner audience, with a premium on clear language and plenty of time for discussion using a variety of approaches and formats to generate a fun and productive atmosphere. The events will be marketed as such from the outset, beginning with an open format, open space call for participation across all of the various publics to be involved in the series as a whole. Speakers/participants will be drawn from a range of relevant groups and organisations involved in a variety of areas of public life with which geographers draw inspiration, or feel they might contribute meaningful knowledge towards – this will include individuals, local authorities and other agencies, and civil society organisations. Academic and postgraduate audiences will be accessed through the JISCmail-based academic email discussion groups (including the critical geography forum, economic-geography, regional-studies and urban-regional-planning lists). Postgraduates would have space to present posters, or present work and receive feedback in a smaller, more supportive session. Non-academic participation will be facilitated through promotion of the series through the various networks that the co-applicants participate in. The seminars will be held in different places to enable as many participants to attend as possible. Firm and potential participants for the seminars are as follows, subject to change as the steering group develops the programme - even at this stage a high proportion of the following identified speakers have indicated their commitment to presenting:

1 *How did that happen?' The creation of time and space for public geographies* - Location: Star & Shadow Cinema, Newcastle upon Tyne

Conveners: Public geographers (Northumbria University)

Potential speakers: Open to all 'publics': academic, postgraduate, practitioner, policy – open space format

2 *Geographers, artists and their publics.* - Location: Exeter

Conveners: Dr Ian Cook & Dr Kathryn Yusoff (Exeter University)

Potential speakers: Hayden Lorimer/Kate Foster (Glasgow University: The Blue Antelope Project); Kathryn Yusoff/Jennifer Gabrys (Exeter University/Design Ecologies, Goldsmiths College: Weatherpermitting); Nick Bingham/Anne Marie Culhane (Open University; The Cosmopolitics of Existence); Ian Cook/Shelley Sacks (Exeter University/Oxford Brookes University: Exchange Values); Divya Tolia Kelly/Kahutoi TeKanawa (Durham University).

3 *Activist Geographies: developing collaborating research priorities with social movements* Location: Leeds

Conveners: Paul Chatterton and Stuart Hodgkinson (Leeds University.)

Potential Speakers: Shami Chakrabarti (Liberty); George Monbiot; Tony Juniper (Friends of the Earth); Emma Ginn, (National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns); Esther Stanford (Pan-African Reparations Coalition in Europe); Eileen Short (Defend Council Housing); plus delegates from Leeds TUC, Transition Towns, CND, UK Social Centres, the Camp for Climate Action, and other direct action networks.

4 *Geographies and policy* Location: Liverpool

Conveners: Peter North and David Featherstone, (Liverpool University)

Potential Speakers: Nick Henry and Bev Bishop, (GHK International); Frank Hont (Unison) ; Alan Harding (Manchester); Richard Meegan (Liverpool); Matthew Taylor (Royal Society for the Arts; formerly IPPR); Kevin Ward (Manchester); Darryn McEvoy (International Centre for Integrated assessment & Sustainable development (ICIS), Maastricht).

5 *Border crossings – geographies in schools* Location: Manchester

Conveners: Noel Castree (Manchester University)

Potential Speakers: Living geography – Prof David Lambert (IOE/Geographical Association); Daniel Raven Ellison (Langtree School / Give Geography its Place / Guerrilla Geographies); Noel Jenkins - (www.juicygeography.co.uk); Jo Norcup (UCL); John Morgan (Futurelab).

6 *Communicating public geographies...* Location: London

Conveners: David Lambert (GA/Institute of Education, London)

Potential Speakers: Bob Digby (Geographical Association); Rita Gardner, Catherine Souch, Jonathan Breckon (Royal Geographical Society); Jane Wills (QM, London) and Neil Jameson (London Citizens); Danny Dorling, (Sheffield); Doreen Massey (Open University).

E1 **Justification for funding:** Please provide full justification for funds sought. 'Established' groups (see note 24-28) should pay particular attention to providing justification for continued ESRC support – failure to do so could result in the **application being rejected**. Justification relates to the importance of the topic, the reasons why Research Council funding is vital and why funding from other sources is unavailable. This section should not exceed one page.

This seminar group proposal comes from a group of geographers varied in their disciplinary backgrounds and locations, but with a shared commitment to engaging with the public(s) beyond the ivory towers of the modern university. Many of them were involved in both the 'Beyond the Academy: Radical Theory/Critical Praxis' conference held at Northumbria University in 2001 and 'Public Geographies Symposium' hosted by the Birmingham University 'Public Geographies Working Group' in 2006. In the intervening period, all have contributed to an increasing debate (for example, at the 'Being and becoming a public scholar' and 'Public sociologies? Public geographies?' sessions of the 2006 Association of American Geographers and RGS-IBG annual conferences respectively) around the role of the modern geographical academic with modern society, whether as an 'academic', 'academic-activist', 'facilitator of experience', 'catalyst for change', 'educator' and/or 'public intellectual'.

Through their work, the group has for some time been interested in radical conceptions of 'geographers' and 'living geographies' and in driving discussion forward around such issues as how to increase the use and impact of geographical expertise and knowledge within political decision making bodies at all levels; how to reconcile the desire for facilitating social justice and emancipatory change with the demands of the modern 'professionalised' university and academic; how to develop sustainable links to community and civil society groups whom in turn might contribute to a fruitful revitalisation of academic outreach into local communities surrounding centres of learning; how to draw together different parts of the geographical teaching community to work productively towards mutually beneficial and self-sustaining goals; and how to generate solidarity with members of the variety of radical movements engaged in continuous struggle for sustainable and fairer ways of living underpinned by notions of grassroots empowerment, social justice and economic empowerment. In short, all are committed to engaging with public(s) in different ways, and are committed in using this proposed seminar series to create new engagements, media, and geographically-informed futures.

The applicants represent a mix of established and younger academics who wish to develop this agenda, but do not have the resources for such a large scale scoping exercise. Many of the tenured academics included in the bid do have access to modest travel funds and have been able to develop this research agenda so far using their own resources, notably through discussions at various conferences and seminars. However, such events exclude many, not least those outside the academic community (of which there are many!). As noted above whilst the series is supported by both of the main professional associations for the discipline of geography – the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers (Higher Education and Academic/Professional Geography-focused) and the Geographical Association (school Geography-focused) neither organisation has funds allocated for this type of initiative. However both organisations have offered their support through participation in the series as co-applicants and network members, and via offers of support in kind such as in promoting seminar series events and in disseminating regular updates concerning the various outputs produced across their membership networks and affiliates. The co-applicants host institutions will also offer room hire (where appropriate), coffee/tea and a buffet lunch as a contribution to the seminar series.

After the very fruitful meeting in Birmingham in 2006, the aim of this application is to open the dialogue up to create numerous (and varied) spaces in which other voices can be heard, particularly those that do not readily have access to the kinds of resource to discuss these matters as well as more established academics. These spaces will provide an ongoing two year, six event dialogue that will be speculative and discursive, spawn new and exciting developments and initiatives, and pose interesting new questions and themes for geographical research, action and organisation that will be as open to all, including younger academics and postgraduates (particularly self-funded and on sub-research council stipends).

Finally, there is a clear capacity building element within the seminar series in terms of the need to begin constructing networks of affiliation and support that cross traditional borders (Castree et al, 2007) and boundaries and which could fuse academics, teachers, practitioners and activists who would not necessarily emerge from the more refined processes whereby academic networks emerge from those who are established and who have travel funds. The funding will be used to target and include members of social movement groups, NGOs, policy practitioners, community representatives, activists and the like who have no support for engagement in discussions like these. In order to explore how a variety of publics (potential user communities) can be best interacted and engaged with the funding is essential to provide and sustain the exciting, innovative and inclusive events and necessary network development that will bring together contributors and participants from a wide range of non-academic backgrounds.

E2 **Justification for £3,000 for International Collaboration (if applicable):** If you are requesting extra funds of up to £3K above the £15K to enhance/increase international collaboration, please provide a justification for the additional resources below (see note 9b). If inadequate justification is provided, **otherwise successful awards may be reduced to £15K.** This section should not exceed half a page.

Whilst the seminar series bid is focused on the potential for (effecting) the meaningful development of public geographies within the context of British geography the need for links, developments and conversations to extend far beyond these shores are clear (and essential). The applicants therefore wish to supplement the contributions made with selected international speakers in order to further explore links to projects and initiatives overseas, learn lessons from other contexts and public geography experiments, and further the network and dissemination potential of public geographies. The extra funding will be used to support the inclusion of 3/4 international academics. Examples of potential academic collaborators include Don Mitchell (Syracuse), Salvatore Engel-DiMauro (SUNY New Paltz), Lawrence Berg (UBC), Justin Beaumont (Groningen), James DeFilippis (CUNY), JK Gibson-Graham (UMASS), Nik Heynen (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Ruth Wilson Gilmore (Rutgers) Nancy Scheper-Hughes (Berkeley), and Ellen Cushman (Michigan State). Should the request for extra funds be successful the steering group will also strive to identify further international collaborators from beyond the academic community. Where possible the participation of international speakers and attendees will be maximised by coinciding with any pre-existing visits and commitments.

F **CVs:** Please attach a **ONE PAGE CV** for each applicant (see note 29).