

Oxford Geography Society's top resources

Feel free to share this with other Geography teachers and students!

Updated: November 2022

Contact us...

School of Geography's Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/oxfordgeography> (updated regularly).

School of Geography's website (most questions should be answered on here, the website can be difficult to navigate, but will be updated soon): <https://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/>

Oxford Geography Society's Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/oxgeogsoc> (this is where we interact most with teachers, academics and 'education Twitter'! You can expect a fairly speedy response via DMs).

Oxford Geography Society's Instagram = @oxfordunigeogsoc (we're very active on here and I recommend directing students here since we post about events a lot).

Oxford University Geography Society's Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/oxfordunigeogsoc> (this isn't used as much).

Direct any questions towards....

Oxford Geog Soc's email address (see below)/Twitter account.

Email address for Dan Hall (School of Geography's Access and Outreach Officer – he can arrange school visits from Geography Ambassadors and can arrange for schools to visit Oxford colleges/the Geography department): access-outreach@ouce.ac.uk

OR: email Oxford University Geography Society with any questions/ideas for events:
geography.society@studentclubs.ox.ac.uk

You can also contact Dan Hall on Twitter: @Dan_Hall97

We are always happy to visit schools/sixth forms or have you visit us! You just need to email Dan to get the ball rolling. Please feel free to contact us with any ideas for future outreach events/queries too!

Look out for...

In the coming months, the Oxford University Geography Society will be publishing an article on teachertoolkit.co.uk all about how teachers can support students through the Oxbridge application process (this won't be Geography-specific). We're also currently writing a piece for SecEd and are working with the Geographical Association to publish an article in one of their journals for teachers in 2023.

The Geography Society also has been given the opportunity to write the January 2023 editorial for Routes journal! We're very excited (if a bit daunted) by this and think it could be a great opportunity to publicise Geography. A huge thanks to Dr Cyrus Golding for this opportunity. We're also exploring the potential for a collaborative podcast with Routes, where we discuss young geographers' work as well as the committee's own experiences of applying to university.

We are also currently overhauling our alternative prospectus (see below). We're looking for input from students, teachers and education professionals, so please don't hesitate to get in touch! We hope for the next version of this to be published by the end of the year at the absolute latest.

Useful resources for students...

Oxford Geography Society Alternative Prospectus:

https://www.oxgeogsoc.com/files/ugd/f2000e_19088bbebdf24e14b03f82ad270f09b3.pdf?index=true

Useful info from the University of Oxford about scholarships, bursaries and financial support:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-support>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-funding-and-scholarship-search>

Oxford School of Geography's website: <https://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/>

The School of Geography's YouTube account has lots of great videos for prospective students: <https://www.youtube.com/c/oxfordgeography>

The best geography/university related TikTok accounts... *(be warned that some of these may include strong language!)*

- @olimould – brilliant geog advice.
- @tiktok10quiz – test your general knowledge!
- @feminism4everyone and @freeda_en – for explainers of what's happening to women's rights.
- @amnesty – if you're interested in human rights.
- @thenewsagents @viceworldnews @vicderbyshire – for current events.
- @lotteboo3 and @lauriealyceadventures – for travel inspo.
- @bbcnews and @eveningstandard – more news clips.
- @its_nhm – for weird facts.
- @politicsjoe and @thechampagne_socialist – news, but make it funny.

- @tradesunioncongress – to understand the cost of living crisis and why there are so many strikes at the moment.
- @psychupyourlife and @tiktok.lecturer.teresa – tips for your academic life.
- @newcollegeoxford and @oxfordswiftsoc – for a glimpse of Oxford uni life and all the banter.
- @thatoxfordgirl1 @gracecuriositydiary @gelikanu @lucywanguxin @nada_omar3 @cameronreads @cropd – Oxford students who post about what life at the uni is really like.
- @oxfordacs @oxfordsomsoc – Oxford societies.
- @dr.big.science.energy – for science knowledge.
- @lbizjournalotok – for how the news gets made.
- @nowthispolitics – explains big ideas/problems well.
- @animalplanet – just cute vids of animals.
- @galswhograduate – an online community for female students and graduates.
- @worldfoodprogramme and @unitednationshumanrights – keep up to date with the UN, climate change info.
- @washingtonpost and @guardianaustralia – more great journalism.

Useful resources for teachers...

A helpful blog on supporting students through the Oxford application process, from a former Oxford Geographer and current editor of Routes:

<https://drpreece.home.blog/2022/07/10/supporting-geography-candidates-for-university-oxbridge-introduction/> (you can also find Dr Preece on Twitter, where he offers advice for teachers and useful resources).

Oxford University's outreach event calendar (updated regularly):

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/events-calendar>

Sign up to the School of Geography and the Environment's teacher mailing list:

<https://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/study/for-teachers/>

Contacts for all the colleges that offer Geography and their access and outreach teams:

- Brasenose: schools@bnc.ox.ac.uk
- Mansfield (Sara Harb): access.officer@mansfield.ox.ac.uk.
- Christchurch: Access and Schools Liaison Officer: access@chch.ox.ac.uk (Joel Butler).
- Hertford (Nathan Stazicker): outreach@hertford.ox.ac.uk or nathan.stazicker@hertford.ox.ac.uk
- Jesus: academic.director@jesus.ox.ac.uk
- Keble (India Collins-Davies): outreach@keble.ox.ac.uk.
- Regent's Park: maryanne.saunders@regents.ox.ac.uk (Access and Outreach Officer - emails bounce back). Try: daniel.gerrard@regents.ox.ac.uk.

- St Anne's (Hannah Snell): outreach@st-annes.ox.ac.uk
- St Catz (Harry Twohig): admissions@stcatz.ox.ac.uk
- St Hilda's: outreach@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk
- St John's (Richard – former Geog undergraduate): access@sjc.ox.ac.uk
- St Peter's (Anna McMurtrie): schools@spc.ox.ac.uk
- Teddy Hall (Eve): schools.liaison@seh.ox.ac.uk.
- Worcester (Claire Sims): admissions@worc.ox.ac.uk

Please note: many of these colleges do not offer Geography-specific Access and Outreach events every year, but often collaborate with the School of Geography and the Environment on open days, taster sessions, etc.

You can find out the partner college/s for your region at: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/oxfordforUK>

Black Geographers' website:

<https://www.blackgeographers.com/> Black Geographers are also active on Twitter (*and are currently helping us with ideas for our SecEd article!*). You can reach them at: @blackgeogorg, where they repost opportunities and current events for people of colour in the geography community.

Our favourite Geography Twitter accounts....

- @The_GA
- @DrCGolding
- @routesjournal
- @DoctorPreece
- @fiona_616
- @WTFisGeography
- @Geography_Emma
- @GeOlliography
- @GeographyCat
- @GeoEduOnline
- @GuardianTeach
- @GeoDebs
- Check out: <https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2014/aug/18/geography-teachers-twitter-follow>
- Follow #geographyteachers on Twitter too!

Some recommended reading/watching from Oxford tutors...

Physical Geography (Earth Surface Processes)

Climate

- How are climate extremes changing?

o <https://www.carbonbrief.org/met-office-why-2020-saw-a-record-breaking-dryand-sunny-spring-across-the-uk>

• What is El Nino and why does it matter? How do we predict it?

o <https://www.pmel.noaa.gov/elnino/>

• The “Futuremakers” podcast asks some key geographical questions, such as Is climate conflict inevitable?; Can we be green AND capitalist?; Climate change - who should we sue?; ‘Solving climate change - nature or technology?’

o <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/futuremakers>

• **Climate change adaptation:** “Do we really want to live in a world in which we all live behind huge walls? Is this the only way to adapt?”

o <https://theconversation.com/as-sea-levels-rise-are-we-ready-to-live-behindgiant-walls-137976>

• **Corporate accountability for climate change:** “Can UK fossil fuel companies now be held accountable for contributing to climate change overseas?”

o <https://theconversation.com/can-uk-fossil-fuel-companies-now-be-heldaccountable-for-contributing-to-climate-change-overseas-139007>

o article in Scientific American on June 8, 2020: To Save the Climate, Look to the Oceans - <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/to-save-theclimate-look-to-the-oceans/>

Geomorphology

• **‘Zoogeomorphology’ and ‘Biogeomorphology’**

o <https://theconversation.com/how-tiny-creatures-are-reshaping-the-very-riversthey-live-in-124845>

o **Landslides.** Browse some of the excellent videos and links in Dave Petley’s blog and ask yourselves: what drives land sliding in different parts of the world? <https://blogs.agu.org/landslideblog/>

Ecology

• Rewilding

o <https://theconversation.com/rewilding-rare-birds-return-when-livestockgrazing-has-stopped-137948>

• Island biogeography

o https://web.stanford.edu/group/stanfordbirds/text/essays/Island_Biogeography.html

• Unconscious bias in ecology

o <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-017-0441-y>

Human Geography

Cities

• John Harris (journalist) podcasts on the ordinary lives of urban places (e.g. Swansea and Milton Keynes)

o <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m000ytz7>

• Alex Vasudevan on rental prices and the geography of Berlin

o <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/apr/23/berlin-rent-capdefeated-landlords-empty>

• Gillian Rose on digital cities

o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuld8aLAFJE>

• David Harvey on cities

o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPGvXhicF2M>

Mobility

• Tim Cresswell on mobilities research

o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXo0gdIVvNU>

o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQgwwlEnnpA>

• Jennie Middleton, Tim Schwanen, and Jim Hall on Mobility after Covid-19

o <https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/events/re-imagining-urban-mobility-aftercovid-19/>

Political Geography

• Patricia Daley on the politics of knowledge in conflict situations

o https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ucxVi_b6WE&t=92s

• Fiona McConnell on her research at the UN

o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIaQyT1Fszl>

Black Geographies

• Aretina Hamilton on the geography of despair

o <https://blackgeographer.medium.com/the-geography-of-despair-or-all-these-rubber-bullets-6f6d711159f5>

- Podcasts on Black Geographies

- o <https://1919mag.com/1919radio>

- Forum on Frantz Fanon's Geographies

- o <https://antipodeonline.org/2021/08/18/frantz-fanons-geographies/>

Economic geographies

- Ruth Wilson Gilmore on Geographies of Racial Capitalism

- o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CS627aKrJI>

- Dariusz Wojcik on Geographies of Finance

- o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nm594S3YHVI>

Environmental Geographies

- Anna Tsing on the Anthropocene

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y89DTM8WcAo>

- Donna Haraway on 'Human nature'

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqMW9-G2gCo>

- Jamie Lorimer on wildlife in the Anthropocene

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhd3hJEcvEo>

Geography/Geographers in the media

Heather Viles on BBC Woman's Hour

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000i9jr>

Danny Dorling on BBC Newsnight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOMiUONDLno>

Social Media

Geographers, like other academics, increasingly seek to engage with the world through social media including twitter. If you are on twitter, you might want to follow some of these geographers/organizations to give you a flavour of this. Not all the posts are work-related, and there many, many more accounts out there.

- Lisa Wedding - <https://twitter.com/lisamwedding?lang=en>

- Friederike Otto - <https://twitter.com/FrediOtto>

- Heather Viles - <https://twitter.com/Geodiverse>

- Tim Schwanen - <https://twitter.com/TimSchwanen>
- Social and Cultural Geography Journal - <https://twitter.com/SocCultGeog>
- American Association of Geographers – <https://twitter.com/theAAG>
- Royal Geographical Society – https://twitter.com/RGS_IBG

Other recommended resources from Geographers themselves...

Magazines/news outlets

- Geographical
- The Economist
- The Diplomat
- Asian Geographic Magazine
- The Guardian
- BBC News
- Tortoise
- Gal dem

Podcasts (*all available on Spotify*)

- The Diplomat
- SoGE podcasts
- Geocurious
- Geographical Imaginations
- The Flip Side
- The Green Room by Deloitte
- Anything from the Economist
- The Guardian: Today in Focus and the Audio Long Reads. Politics Weekly UK.
- Tortoise Media: The Slow Newscast, Visible Women with Caroline Criado Perez, Sloq Politics, Sensemaker
- Freakonomics Radio
- Global News Podcast (BBC)
- The Documentary Podcast (BBC)
- Newscast (BBC)
- The News Agents (Global)
- TED Talks Daily
- The Argument (NYT)
- More or Less: Behind the Stats (BBC R4)
- Overheard at National Geographic
- People Fixing the World (BBC)
- Reasons to be Cheerful with Ed Miliband and Geoff Lloyd
- Desert Island Discs (BBC)
- The Fourcast (Channel 4)

- The Book Review (NYT)
- New Economics Podcast
- Economics Explained
- Ways to Change the World (Channel 4)

Podcasts often aren't given the credit they deserve for being super informative and a really easy and enjoyable way of absorbing knowledge.

Books

We've grouped these by A Level topic, so that they're easier for you to find!

Human Rights and conflict

- The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates.
- Half the Sky by Nick Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.
- Say Nothing by Patrick Radden Keefe.
- Mighty Be Our Powers by Leymah Gbowee.
- Season of Blood by Fergal Keane.
- Lawless by Kimberly Motley.

Disease

- Spike by Jeremy Farrar and Anjana Ahuja.
- The Invisible Cure by Helen Epstein.
- All the Young Men by Ruth Coker Burks.
- The Empire of Pain by Patrick Radden Keefe.

Globalisation + trade

- Narconomics by Tom Wainwright.
- Invisible Women by Caroline Criado Perez.
- Fences and Windows by Naomi Klein.
- No Logo by Naomi Klein.
- The Almighty Dollar by Dharshini David.
- Poor Economics by Abhijit V Banerjee and Esther Duflo.

Migration/colonialism

- Green Unpleasant Land by Corrine Fowler.
- The Undocumented Americans by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio.
- The Good Immigrant, edited by Nikesh Shukla.
- The Arrival by Shaun Tan.
- Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie.

Borders

- Empireland by Sathnam Sanghera.
- The Places in Between by Rory Stewart.
- The Devil's Highway by Louis Alberta Urrea.

- Violent Borders by Reece Jones.
- Border Wars by Klaus Dodds.
- Africa is Not a Country by Dipo Faloyin.
- Border Nation by Leah Cowan.

Oceans

- The Political Geography of the Oceans by J.R. Prescott.
- The Unnatural History of the Sea by Callum Roberts.
- Lady with a Spear by Eugenie Clark.
- Oceans: A very short introduction by Dorrik Stow.
- Understanding the Oceans by Margaret Deacon.
- Biodiversity of the Southern Ocean by Bruno David and Thomas Saucedo.

Natural Hazards

- At Risk by Piers Blaikie, *et al.*
- Disaster by Choice by Ilan Kelman.
- Global Environments Through the Quaternary by David Anderson, *et al.*
- Emerging voices in Natural Hazards Research by Fernando Rivera.
- Natural Hazards and Risk Research in Russia by Valentina Borisovna Svalova.
- Natural Hazards by Ehsan Farsangi Noroozinejad.

Tectonics

- Fire Fountains by Constance Gordon Cumming.
- Volcano - A memoir by Yvonne Weekes.
- Volcanoes by Peter Francis.
- Water and Earthquakes by Chi-yuen Wang and Michael Manga.
- Preparing for Earthquakes: Lessons for India by Sreevalsa Kolathayar and T.G. Sitharam.
- Eruptions that shook the world by Clive Oppenheimer.

Place/cities

- Feral by George Monbiot.
- Natives by Akala.
- Place: an introduction by Tim Cresswell.
- Underland by Robert MacFarlane.
- East of Eden by John Steinbeck.
- Poverty Safari by Darren McGarvey.
- For Space by Doreen Massey.
- Rebel cities by David Harvey.

Development/inequality

- How I learned to understand the world and Factfulness by Hans Rosling.
- Dead Aid by Dambisa Moyo.
- Development as Freedom by Amartya Sen.

- The Looting Machine by Tom Burgis.
- Do we need economic inequality? By Danny Dorling.
- The bottom billion by Paul Collier.

Climate change

- The New Climate War by Michael E Mann.
- Under a White Sky by Elizabeth Kolbert.
- When the Rivers Run Dry by Fred Pearce.
- Who Killed Berta Caceres? By Nina Lakhani.
- The Uninhabitable Earth by David Wallace-Wells.
- Adventures in the Anthropocene by Gaia Vince.
- The Anthropocene Reviewed by John Green.
- Heat by George Monbiot.
- The two mile time machine by Richard Alley.
- There is no Planet B by Mike Berners-Lee.
- Merchants of Doubt by Erik Conway and Naomi Oreskes.

Controversial books

- How to Avoid a Climate Disaster by Bill Gates.
- On Fire by Naomi Klein.
- The Revenge of Geography by Robert D Kaplan.
- Desertification: Exploding the Myth by David Thomas and Nicholas Middleton.
- Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe.
- Silent Spring by Rachel Carson.
- T.rex and the Crater of Doom by Walter Alvarez.
- A Case for Climate Engineering by David Keith.
- The Skeptical Environmentalist by Bjorn Lomborg.
- Land and Sea: A World-historical Meditation by Carl Schmitt.
- Protect of Plunder? By Vandana Shiva.
- Where Do Camels Belong? By Ken Thompson.

Environment/miscellaneous

- Himalaya: A Human History by Ed Douglas.
- Guns, Germs and Steel by Jared Diamond.
- Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari.
- Rebel Ideas: The Power of Diverse Thinking by Matthew Syed.
- Energy, the Environment and Public Opinion by Eric Smith.
- Step by Step by Simon Reeve.
- All Michael Palin books.
- Blood River by Tim Butcher.

.... And many more! Just get in touch with the Geography Society if you need more/more specific suggestions, or to add stuff to our list!

Books that are good prep for university/university texts

- Orientalism by Edward Said (and his autobiography: Out of Place).
- The Wretched of the Earth by Frantz Fanon.
- Feminism and Geography by Gillian Rose.
- Geographic Thought by Tim Cresswell.
- The Shock of the Anthropocene by Christophe Bonneuil and Jean-Baptiste Fressoz.
- The Dictionary of Human Geography edited by Derek Gregory, *et al.*
- Any of Oxford's 'very short introductions' series.
- How Europe underdeveloped Africa by Rodney Walter.
- Geography: Ideas in Profile by Danny Dorling and Carl Lee.
- Silent Spring by Rachel Carson.
- Global Environments Through the Quaternary by David Anderson, *et al.*
- Climates and Weather Explained by Bart Geerts and Edward Linacre.
- Arid Zone Geomorphology by David Thomas.
- Landscape: key ideas in geography by John Wylie.
- Geography Militant by Felix Driver.

For more suggestions, see: <https://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-list.html>

And <https://w.sjb.school/wp-content/uploads/Sixth Form/Geography Year 13 Reading List.pdf>

Films

- The Descendants
- Black Gold
- Rabbit Proof Fence
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
- Spotlight
- Into the Wild
- Life and Debt
- Champ of the Camp
- Black Girl (1966)
- Dante's Peak
- Into the Inferno
- The Impossible

TV shows

- Unreported World (All4 – loads of episodes)
- Joe Lycett vs the Oil Giant (All4)
- Dispatches (All4)
- Panorama (BBC iPlayer)
- Ros Atkins on.... (iPlayer)
- The Boys from Brazil: Rise of the Bolsonaros (iPlayer)

- Escape from Kabul airport (iPlayer)
- Storyville (iPlayer)
- A Dangerous Dynasty: The House of Assad (iPlayer)
- Putin: The New Tsar (iPlayer)
- The Cameron Years (iPlayer)
- Coast
- Our Planet (Netflix)
- Cowspiracy and Seaspiracy (Netflix)
- Four Hours at the Capitol (Netflix)
- Explained (Netflix)
- Living Undocumented (Netflix)
- Anything from David Attenborough, Louis Theroux, Simon Reeve, Stacey Dooley, Michael Palin or Krishnan Guru-Murthy.
- Food programs (like Somebody Feed Phil on Netflix) are often saturated with geographic knowledge!