

A GEES one-day conference:

Virtual Fieldwork in the GEES Disciplines: Pedagogy and Technology

**** Call for Paper and Poster Presentations ****

Date: **Wednesday 16th May 2007** (10 am – 4 pm)
Venue: **University of Worcester**
Cost: **Free**
Organizers: Dr Des McDougall, Dr Ian Maddock (University of Worcester)
Dr Derek France (University of Chester)

What is the conference about?

The aim of this one-day conference at the University of Worcester is to bring together those with interests in virtual fieldtrips*. Virtual fieldwork can be used to support and enhance the 'real thing', although it also has a legitimate role to play where real fieldwork is simply not possible (e.g. due to time, cost and accessibility constraints). With many examples on the web dating from the mid-1990s, the concept of the virtual fieldtrip is hardly new. Nevertheless, recent developments in technology and e-learning mean that it is now easier than ever to produce highly immersive, interactive virtual fieldwork content. This one-day conference seeks to explore, in a relaxed, informal atmosphere, some of the pedagogical and technological aspects of virtual fieldwork.

* The terms 'virtual fieldtrip' and 'virtual fieldwork' are used interchangeably here.

Who should attend?

This conference is aimed at anyone with an interest in virtual fieldwork. Previous experience in the area is not a pre-requisite!

Paper and Poster Presentations

Presentations (paper or poster) on any aspect of virtual fieldwork are welcome, although it would be particularly helpful to have presentations that fall into one or more of the following categories:

- the role of virtual fieldwork in addressing disability/equal opportunity issues;
- the use of virtual fieldwork in supporting real fieldwork (e.g. in preparing students for fieldwork, and as follow-up to it);

- virtual fieldwork as an alternative to real fieldwork;
- virtual fieldwork as part of a blended learning strategy;
- virtual fieldtrip design (pedagogy and/or technology);
- the effectiveness of virtual fieldwork.

If you would like to present a paper or poster at the conference, please email d.mcdougall@worc.ac.uk with a provisional title and a brief outline (a few sentences will do at this point).

‘Hands-on’

The room in which the posters are displayed will also feature a hands-on area, where delegates will be able to try out some virtual field courses for themselves. In addition, there will be an opportunity to try out some of the equipment and software used in producing virtual fieldwork content.

We would be especially pleased to hear from you if you would like to demonstrate a virtual fieldtrip or perhaps some of the software / hardware you use! Please contact d.mcdougall@worc.ac.uk with your proposal and space requirements.

Registration

Details on how to register will be circulated in early January.

Additional Information

Please feel free to contact the conference organizers with any queries.

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