

## Geography Summer Reading List

The Preliminary Examinations in Geography at Oxford consist of a mix of *Human Geography*, *Earth Systems Processes*, *Geographical Techniques* and *Geographical Controversies*. Below we outline the required reading for students joining in September, as well as some recommended wider reading.

### Required reading: Geographical Controversies

Prior to your arrival at Oxford we encourage you to read at least one of the following books. These have been selected as they are either written by geographers, or deal with issues close to geographical interests and expertise, and because they were, at the time of publication, controversial. These are popular books, so it should be fairly easy to source cheap copies secondhand or borrow one through your local library, but if you have any problems getting hold of one of these texts, please get in touch.

Alvarez, W. (1997) *T-rex and the Crater of Doom*.

Monbiot, G. (2013) *Feral: Searching for Enchantment on the Frontiers of Rewilding*.

Keith, D. (2013) *A Case for Climate Engineering*.

Fanon, F. (1961/2001) *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Kaplan, R. D. (2012) *The Revenge of Geography: What the Map Tells Us about Coming Conflicts and the Battle against Fate*.

Lomborg, B. (2001) *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World*.

Shiva, V. (2001) *Protect or Plunder? Understanding Intellectual Property Rights*.

Schmitt, C. (1942/2015) *Land and Sea: A world historical meditation*.

Thompson, K. (2014) *Where do Camels Belong? The Story and Science of Invasive Species*.

One of the first tasks given to new Geographers arriving at Keble is to write an academic-style review of one of these books, so you may wish to do some searching online for reviews of the book you choose to see how others have tackled this task, as well as to find out a little more about your chosen author. It's worth bearing in mind one of the key aims of the *Geographical Controversies* paper is to encourage you to think about the need to be critical of evidence and data in geographical argument.

### General Introductions

For those looking for a more general introduction to some of the key themes we'll be covering in the course. We would also recommend the following:

**Cloke P, Crang P and Goodwin (2013) *Introducing Human Geographies* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. New York, Routledge**

This is a good introductory text, with chapters on key themes such as space and place, landscape, the urban, identity, human-non-human, migration, mobility, territory and gender. There are many copies available secondhand online. Earlier editions, while less up-to-date, still offer a useful introduction to key concepts.

**Clifford, N., Cope, M., Gillespie T. and French S. (2016) *Key Methods in Geography*. Sage.**

This is a great introduction to many of the methods used in geographical research, and is supplemented by online materials to help you explore particular methods in further depth. In your *Geographical Techniques* course in the first year you will cover methods such as statistics, interviews, GIS and archives, so focus on these chapters if you are unsure where to start. Again, this is a popular key text and is available secondhand online quite cheaply.

See also the recommendations on the School of Geography and the Environment website:  
<https://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-list.html>