RGS-IBG 2014: Keeping in touch when work takes us apart understanding the social impact of work related travel

Based on the assumption that mobility and travel will remain part of many employment sectors well into the future concerned with understanding the impact of workers’ absence on the household and family life, the mechanisms communications between the absent worker and family members at home, and the forms of communication. How information and communication technologies (e.g. phone calls, Skype, text, tweets and other SNS postings) deploy back home; what are the types of connections that ICTs afford and what are the limitations? How do the debates a technological substitution for face-to-face interaction in the work-place inform the absent worker – home connection different about sending letters, postcards, objects, and word-of-mouth messages in this context? What opportunities be for conveying more than words in the way communication is facilitated digitally or materially? It also brings into consideration the long term sustainability of work related travel, not only from an environmental perspective but the social sustainability and the trade-offs between careers, opportunities, and lifestyle.

This call anticipates papers exploring at least one of, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Theorising absence and presence
- Perspectives of work related mobility across the ages, and its future.
- Mechanisms of communication, including critical analysis of technological affordances
- Policies of work-life balance
- Family practices and gender roles.

Please send your abstract (250 words) by 6 February 2014 to Dr Juliet Jain & Dr Billy Clayton

Informations pratiques: