# Away weekend

## **Participatory Geographies**

Reading, 30<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017



The Participatory Geographies Research Group is a collective whose members aim to raise the profile and perceived value, and further the understanding and use of participatory approaches, methods, tools and principles

PYGYRG are co-hosting the event with the Participation Lab at Reading University (blogs.reading.ac.uk/participation-lab)

The Participation Lab will run a one day workshop on the theme of *Participation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Digital technologies and innovation* on Friday 30 June. PYGYRG will then host the weekend events at the Reading International Solidarity Centre (www.risc.org.uk)

The PYGYRG weekend away is a space in which we explore how we do our research and teaching. It is organised and led by participants. We structure workshops around issues raised by people coming or run by people willing to share their skills and experience. It is as much about fostering solidarity and support between researchers as it is about discussing particular methods. It is a space for thoughtful constructive discussions, meeting each other and having fun

See our webpage for reports and videos from previous away weekends

To come along email: Sam Halvorsen (sth31@cam.ac.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 www.pygyrg.co.uk @pygyrg email list: pygywg@jiscmail.ac.uk

- 1. The participatory geographies research group is a broad and inclusive collective of academics and non-academics who value and practice participatory approaches, principles and methods.
- 2. These participatory methods include a broad variety of tools alongside critical analysis of their utility, limitations and development.
- 3. A participatory approach in academic geography includes collaborating with others as partners in improving equality, justice, and other progressive social change causes.
- 4. We aim to work across all spaces and places, alongside attempts to widen participation in higher education geography.
- 5. We support work that results in social change outside the academy and thus seek to widen the range of what are considered to be legitimate geographical knowledge and research activities.
- 6. We aim to provide a space for mutual support orientated towards those engaging in participatory approaches, especially for those working within the increasingly pressured and competitive higher education context.

### **Basic information**

#### Costs

There is a fee of £25 per attendee to cover the cost of room hire and basic food

#### Accommodation

PyGyRG is happy to help you find suitable accommodation and buddy you up with others. We are recommending the Hillingdon Prince (www.hillingdonprince.co.uk) which is located between the University and RISC, where the weekend's activities will take place. You are welcome to either organise your own accommodation or get in touch for assistance

#### Food

We will mostly prepare this together, but will organise a dinner on the Saturday and on the Friday night to which you will be invited

#### **Bursaries**

We can provide up to 8 bursaries of up to £80 to cover accommodation costs and/or contribute towards travel costs for early career postgraduate, practitioners and unwaged participants. To apply for bursary please email sth31@cam.ac.uk by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 detailing (i) whether you plan to attend the Friday Participation Lab workshop, the weekend activities, or both; (ii) why you would like to attend; and (iii) why you need the bursary (maximum 1 page A4)