

SPARC Networking Event (Spatial and GeoHumanities Research Collaborations)

On the 6th of July at the Medway Campus of the University of Kent a group of like-minded researchers from four CHASE institutions met to discuss the future potential of supporting spatial research themes and collaboration across CHASE institutions. These represented a group of approximately 30 researchers who have expressed an interest in taking spatial research collaborations in CHASE to the next level. In a very productive and encouraging discussion three key aspects were identified for strengthening spatial research activities in CHASE: [1] (in)formal arrangements for co-supervision and PhD student project support; [2] training skills in spatial theory and technology for postgraduate students and staff; [3] a support community of academic staff, technicians and postgraduates for those working with spatial technologies and data formats in their research. There is a strong appetite to further expand and thematically deepen the Spatial Humanities training options within CHASE, which may be complemented by specialised training provided at separate institutions, such as the Kent Interdisciplinary Centre for Spatial Studies (KISS). In addition, preparations are on-going for at least two AHRC applications which would greatly benefit (from) the growing SPARC group of researchers. It was decided that with continued support from CHASE those present would set-out an online strategy to grow a community in which research support and new in person initiatives could be nurtured.

Benjamin N. Vis (University of Kent) and Eleanor Betts (Open University)