

GLASGOW COLOUR STUDIES GROUP

Notes following the Eighth Meeting, 25th March 2009

The eighth meeting of the GCSG took place in Room 1, Dept of English Language, University of Glasgow. Thanks are due to Carole Biggam, who acted as master of ceremonies, and to Christian Kay who organized the refreshments.

The Group turned to a new subject at this meeting: astronomy. We are most grateful to our member, John Lynn, for arranging a talk from his son, Stuart. Stuart Lynn is a postgraduate researcher at the Institute for Astronomy, University of Edinburgh.

Stuart Lynn spoke on ‘The Colour of the Cosmos’

“Astrophysicists have the unenviable task of trying to understand objects and processes on unimaginable scales in both time and space. This task is made even more difficult by the fact that practically the only tool we have at our disposal is the light we receive from faint stars and galaxies. In this talk I will outline how, by carefully examining the differing intensity of colours which make up this cosmic light we have learned about such exotic things as black holes, planets around other stars and even the origins of the Universe itself”.

This was a visually and intellectually stunning lecture. Stuart was able to convey, even to non-scientists, some difficult concepts in simple language, and he involved the audience at several points in the wonders he was showing us, as he juggled his two computers. He inspired many questions and animated conversation over the refreshments. We are most grateful for his visit.

News

- Membership currently stands at 82.
- The email discussion list is very under-utilized. It would be an excellent place for those who have attended meetings to continue their discussions. The address is ColourStudies@www.jiscmail.ac.uk

Considerations for the Next Academic Year

Programme:

- The organizing committee is planning to arrange a programme for next year, rather than announcing individual meetings.

Talks

- If anyone would like to volunteer a talk or session for the programme, please contact Carole Biggam at c.p.biggam@btinternet.com
- In addition, contact Carole Biggam if you do not want to speak, but would like to suggest a subject that interests you, for example, an industrial process such as printing, the work of a particular artist, the colour vocabulary of an exotic language. The committee will endeavour to find a knowledgeable speaker.
- We do not want to exclude any format for future meetings, and, indeed, it would be good to have as much variety as possible, e.g. single lectures, collections of short talks, seminars on particular subjects, short talks on a particular theme etc.