

# What do geographers actually do?

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## Event speakers

### **Anup Patel – Performance Director at Seven**

Anup has over 15 years of experience of programme management in the built environment sector, ranging from education, major events, and corporate real estate. Anup studied Geography with Economics at LSE and has an MSc in Project and Enterprise Management from UCL. He joined the graduate trainee programme at Mace, where he worked on the London 2012 Olympics and as a project manager delivering primary school expansions. Following this, Anup moved to CBRE, as a programme manager for strategic corporate real estate activity on behalf of global occupiers such as Cisco, Unilever, and Sony Mobile. For the last 7 years, Anup has been at Seven – an independent real estate and business consultancy. He joined Seven as one of the first employees to help grow the business to its current size of 60+ globally. Here, Anup is part of the global business leadership team, and is responsible for driving global consistency, technological solutions and delivering numerous high-profile HQ office relocations for London-based professional services firms.

### **Alexandra Swinkels – Director of Project Design and Resource Mobilization at Vanguard Economics**

Alexandra (Alex) Swinkels is a development professional with over eight years of experience designing and managing sustainable development projects in East Africa and Southeast Asia. She is currently the Director of Project Design and Resource Mobilization at Vanguard Economics, an East African research and advisory firm. Alex is specialised in the agrifood sector and previously worked as an Agribusiness Specialist and Project Coordinator at the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC). Alex has lived and worked in Rwanda, Indonesia, the UK, and Belgium. She holds a BSc in Geography with Quantitative Research Methods from the University of Bristol and an MSc in Sustainable Development from the University of Sussex.

### **Grace Milner - Geospatial Analyst at Ecometric**

Grace is a Geospatial Analyst at climate tech startup [Ecometric](#) where she uses AI, satellite imagery, and soil sampling to track Soil Organic Carbon (SOC), supporting regenerative agriculture and climate solutions. With a background in Geography from the University of Bristol—plus a year abroad at the University of British Columbia—she went on to specialise in GIS and Remote Sensing during her MSc in Brussels. Along the way, she gained hands-on experience through internships and part-time positions in research, technology and

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communications, working across all scales from small NGOs to the UN, NASA, and ESA. Passionate about the power of geospatial data, she is driven by its potential to tackle global challenges and create meaningful impact.

**Sarah Beasley – Deputy Head of the Sustainable Development Goals Data Website Development at the Office for National Statistics**

Sarah has always had a passion for learning about and protecting the environment, which led her to study Geography at the University of Bristol. In her degree, she focused primarily on climate change and glaciology. After graduating, Sarah spent two years as a Sustainability Consultant for the built environment. For the past 5 years she has been working at the Office for National Statistics, currently working towards improving the way developing countries report data on the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Andrew Robinson – Environmental Consultant at Greengage Environmental Ltd**

Andrew undertook an RGS sponsored gap year before undertaking a BSc geography and natural hazards degree in 2014. During my BSc, Andrew undertook two internship opportunities with international NGO's. After graduating, he worked for 4 years in public sector GIS, before returning to university in 2022 to study an MSc Global Urban Planning and Development degree at the University of Manchester. This led to him working in environmental consultancy as a nature-based-solutions consultant in London.