

MINUTES: 2015 PGSG BUSINESS MEETING

*Thursday, April 23, 2015, 11:50 am
Columbus CD, Hyatt, East Tower, Gold Level*

I. Approve 2014 minutes – approved at 11:54.

Because Martin has to leave: this year's Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award goes to:
Martin Müller, U of Zurich

II. Elections

- Thanks to **Karen Culcasi** and **Kenneth Madsen**, faculty members of the governing board, who are both rotating off this year. Thanks to **Corey Johnson** for his service on the grad student paper committee. Thanks also to **Reece Jones** who is finishing his term as president, but will remain on the board, replacing **Mat Coleman** in the President Emeritus position. Elise Gordon – student representative.
- Nominations and elections for:
 - President – Natalie Koch nominated by Reece Jones via Corey Johnson
 - Treasurer/Secretary- Kenneth Madsen nominated by Natalie Koch
 - 2 board members- Andrew Linkey and Kara Dempsey nominated by Natalie Koch
 - Student representative- two students were nominated (Andrew Grant and Sarah Hughes) Sarah Hughes was elected.
 - Member of grad student paper committee to replace Corey Johnson-Adam Moore was nominated by Corey Johnson

****For group discussion:** possibility of voting online in the future? There were a few questions about the timing of the voting (e.g. before or after the meeting). Natalie assured members that AAG Knowledge Community platform would be able to limit voting to PGSG members only in the future. The vote passed.

III. Announcements

- From AAG: name change has passed (effective Jan. 1, 2016) it is now officially American Association of Geographers; long-range plan posted till May for comments, they want you to submit feedback about the long-range plans. Additionally, members can now sign up for Specialty Groups at any point in the year instead of in the past you could only sign up when renewing the membership.
 - Membership numbers: PGSG members: 751 PGSG, 9000 at this year's conference
 - Preconference: success!
 - Thank you's to everyone at DePaul, especially Kara Dempsey
 - ...and to the membership for the great turn-out
 - Next year – anyone in the Bay Area? (March 28) Natalie solicited suggestions for where the conference should be held. Various suggestions were raised, Natalie asked people to email her suggestions.
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IV. PGSG Awards

First, thanks to the large number of people who are working on our committees to make the awards selection happen: Cindy Sorrensen, Corey Johnson, Emma Norman, Fiona Davidson, Kara Dempsey, Karen Culcasi, Katrinka Somdahl-Sands, Robert Watrel, Shannon O'Lear, Stephanie Wilbrand, Steve Radil, Vincent Artman

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Martin Mueller receives Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award (awards on sports and geopolitics) and Natalie read the award description.

Grad student paper awards (chair Karen Culcasi) There were 19 submissions.

1. PhD Student Paper: **Emma Mullaney**, Penn State University for "Geopolitical Maize: Peasant Seeds, Everyday Practices, and Food Security in Mexico"
 - Honorable mention is Katherine Sammler
2. MA: **Kelsey Carlson**, Syracuse University for "Drawing Borders to Dispossess and Placing Dakota People in the Present: Alternative Territoriality"

Undergrad student paper award (chair Emma Norman) reported that quality was great, but would like to increase the number of submissions.

2014: **Azzah Ahmad**, Syracuse University for "Hydro-Hegemony in the Jordan River Basin: The Case of Israel and Palestine". There were 2 honorable mentions Rachel Gowland (A. Murphy) and Zach Avre (Dan Trudeau). Natalie reminded people that there can only be 1 submission per university so please consult with faculty members to identify the best paper.

Dissertation Enhancement Award (chair Robert Watrel): 12 submissions – all very excellent.

Keegan Williams, Wilfrid Laurier University for "Arriving Somewhere but not Here: Exploring and Mapping the Relationship between Border Enforcement and Migration by Boat in the Central Mediterranean Sea, 2006-2014"

Student Travel awards (chair Katrinka Somdahl-Sands):

1. Ali Nehme Hamdan, UCLA
2. Genevieve Parente, UBC
3. Wes Attewell, UBC
4. Joshua Watkins, UC Davis

Natalie reported that at the Chairs meeting they shared that specialty groups provide about \$50,000 in awards, which much of which goes to support students/student funding.

Non-student awards:

1. Stanley D. Brunn Young Scholar Award: **Simon Springer**, U of Victoria
2. Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award: **Martin Müller**, U of Zurich
3. Julian Minghi Outstanding Book Award: **Emma Norman**, Northwest Indian College for *Governing Transboundary Waters: Canada, the United States and Indigenous Communities* (Routledge 2014)
4. PGSG Outstanding Research Award: **Sarah Mills**, Loughborough University for '*An instruction in good citizenship*': *scouting and the historical geographies of citizenship education*
 - ➔ This award is given to the author(s) of a journal article or book chapter published in the previous three (3) calendar years (2012, 2013, 2014) that makes an innovative, original contribution to the conceptual and/or methodological embrace of political geography.

****Naming awards:** after extensive board discussion and discussion with possible honorees, the Board would like to propose the following names for membership approval: **Alexander B. Murphy** Dissertation Enhancement Award and the **Virginie Mamadouh** Outstanding Research Award.

- Board's proposal passed by unanimous support
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V. Treasurer's Report & Finances Discussion

- Budget is looking good: after awards & preconference expenses, about \$500 to carry over to next year, which renews itself through annual dues.
 - Our biggest expense / benefit is awards: approx. \$2800 / year (faculty awards do not have a monetary value)
 - Preconference model is sustainable only with tremendous support given by local hosts, fees collected from faculty attendees help us to break even.
 - Website restructuring and new hosting agreement: this is essentially paid for the next 10 years
 - For membership discussion: Political Geography plenary: There is an need to codify our relationship with the journal and how plenary cost sharing works due to confusion about paying for the plaque – conversation with Reece about this: want to reflect our commitment to students so perhaps just pay for student registration, a cap, nothing at all? How to strengthen connection? (We have to pay for the plaque and student registration. Natalie and Reece are interested to support the student registration but question the funds for the plaque (just under \$100). There is nothing written in our bylaws so many suggested codifying things in the bylaws. First that the PGSG is willing to support the reimbursement for the AAG, the second would be the relationship of consolation of who is the plenary speaker and third is the paying for the plaque. Questions were raised about the plaque. Overall, general consensus was that if it was included in the bylaws that we get to consult about the speaker for a “suitable” memento for the speaker.
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VI. Other business?

- 1) Undergrads being allowed to apply for the travel award travel to the AAG (discussion on request of Dan Trudeau). Trudeau suggested funding could go for undergraduate as well because wording currently is only for graduate students only. (Each year the student awards are based on the funding. This year there were 4 student awards). Currently the awards are \$200/awardees. The idea is to broaden eligibility to undergraduate programs and students in Geography and “related” programs.
- 2) Any suggestions for the website? Natalie redesigned it to last for 10 years, but asked for future suggestions or emailed suggestions. You can contact Natalie to post information on the website.
- 3) Possibilities for expanding student representative role? Natalie suggested emailing her if there are any suggestions.

Adjourn