

MINUTES: 2017 PGSG BUSINESS MEETING

*Friday, April 7, 2017, 11:50 am
Clarendon Room, Third Floor, Marriott; Boston, MA*

I. Minutes & Announcements

2016 Business Meeting Minutes – available online

http://www.politicalgeography.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2016-03-30_PGSG_bus-mtg_minutes_POSTED.pdf

Preconference stats:

- 99 people registered
- \$990 income
- 50 papers & 10 posters planned
- no shows: 1 presenter, 5 posters (incl. 2 present but no posters & 1 travel delay), 1 session chair (sick)

New award deadlines:

Non-student awards: all to be Jan. 15

Student awards:

→ travel Dec. 31

→ all others to Jan. 31, including undergraduate award (previously in June)

Thanks to outgoing officers/board members:

Natalie Koch (Syracuse University) – President

Kenneth Madsen (The Ohio State University at Newark) – Secretary/Treasurer

Andrew Linke (University of Utah)

Kara Dempsey (Appalachian State University)

Reece Jones (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) – Past Chair

K. Williams (Wilfred Laurier U) – Student Rep.

Thanks as well to those who are moving on from PGSG award committee service and those who have agreed to take their place! On the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, positions previously held by Karen Culcasi (West Virginia University) and Steven Radil (University of Idaho) will be filled by Edward Holland (University of Arkansas) and Eeva-Kaisa Prokkola (University of Oulu). On the Dissertation Enhancement committee, positions previously held by Shannon O'Lear (University of Kansas) and Robert Watrel (South Dakota State University) will be filled by Andrew Linke (University of Utah) and Sara Koopman (Tampere Peace Research Institute).

While we are at it, thanks to all of the awards committee members – their service is invaluable to the Political Geography Specialty Group!

II. Elections

Candidate introductions

Vote

Results (AAG 2017 through AAG 2019 except for student board member):

President:

Kenneth Madsen, Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography, The Ohio State University at Newark

Secretary/Treasurer:

Afton Clarke-Sather, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Delaware

Faculty Board Members:

Kevin Grove, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University

Mary Mostafanezhad, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geography, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Student Board member (AAG 2017 through AAG 2018):

Ali Nehme Hamdan, PhD Candidate Dept. of Geography, University of California at Los Angeles

Thanks also to others who put their name forward to run for student board member position:

Andrew Hoyt, MA Student, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of North Texas

Malene H. Jacobsen, PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky, Lexington

Kawēlau Wright, PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Hawai'i

The PGSG Constitution was also approved.

III. Budget Update

current balance = \$2,673.76

balance 1 year ago post-AAG = \$1,993.91

balance 2 years ago post-AAG = \$1,462.91

IV. Awards

Thanks again for all the work done by board members (faculty awards) and the various committees in identifying this year's winners.

STUDENTS

2016 Undergraduate Student Paper Award

Elora Ward (Sonoma State): A feminist geopolitics of LGBT youth and transportation

Honorable Mention: John Preysner (U of Chicago): The rise of the House Freedom Caucus and its implications U.S. politics

2017 MA Student Paper Award

Jessie Bolin (University of New Hampshire): Under-exposed to double exposure? Attitudes towards climate change and economic globalization

2017 PhD Student Paper Award

Sara Hughes (UCLA): Unbounded territoriality: Territorial control in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

2017 Alexander B. Murphy Dissertation Enhancement Award

Kuan-chi Wang (University of Oregon): Border Assemblages: The Political Economy of Asian Regional Vegetable Trade

NON-STUDENTS

(1) Virginie Mamadouh Outstanding Research Award: This award is given to the author(s) of a journal article or book chapter published in the previous three (3) calendar years that makes an innovative, original contribution to the conceptual and/or methodological embrace of political geography.

Jim Tyner (Kent State) and Rachel Will (U of Georgia) for Nature and Post-Conflict Violence: Water Management under the Communist Party of Kampuchea, 1975–1979 (Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers 2015) Between 1975 and 1979 approximately two million people died in Cambodia. Whereas most literature has focused on the 'direct' killing associated with torture and execution, we focus on the structures of violence that contributed to the death of men, women and children through famine-related causes. Accordingly, this paper sits at the intersection of three bodies of literature: water management policies, post-conflict reconstruction and political violence. Through a case study of Democratic Kampuchea, we first add to contemporary research that has destabilised the dichotomy between 'conflict' and 'post-conflict', by showing how post-conflict societies are not necessarily free from violence: indeed post-conflict policies of state rebuilding may establish structures that

engender widespread violence. Second, we provide a variation on 'environmental violence'. In contrast to previous literature, we consider how environmental management policies contribute to violence in a post-conflict setting rather than focus on environmental degradation following conflict. Third, and more narrowly, we provide a transformative understanding of the Cambodian 'genocide'. Together, we argue that Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) water management was a key component of a larger post-conflict reconstruction effort of Democratic Kampuchea's leadership. Agricultural surplus production was essential, but the CPK understood that increases in agricultural productivity were impossible without a systematic water management strategy. The imposition of post-conflict policies would manifest in the death of millions, but not because CPK policies were unplanned or unorganised. Rather, the remarkable death toll that ensued was just the opposite; it was the result of a highly organised attempt to reconstruct Cambodia.

(2) Stanley D. Brunn Young Scholar Award: This award will be given to a junior scholar who has received her/his Ph.D. within the past ten years, in honor of contributions that have generated new interest in the subfield and/or opened up new areas of inquiry for political geographic research.

Sara Koopman (Tampere Peace Research Institute) Sara has rapidly become a leading voice at the forefront of political geographic research on social movements and peacebuilding. She has made key contributions to the subfield through an extensive publication record on geographic methods, transnational international solidarity networks, and "alter-geopolitics." Although her research touches on topics that are also of central concern within other subfields of geography, Sara has been a consistent advocate of political geography. Not only does she consistently frame her contributions within the subfield, she has a clear commitment to strengthening the discipline's ability to speak to the broader issues across geography's many subfield silos. Sara is also a talented educator, both in the classroom and beyond, as seen from her "Decolonizing Solidarity" blog, in which she critical reflects on how solidarity organizing can easily "slip in to colonial patterns when working together across distance and difference." Sara is a truly dynamic scholar worthy of the Stanley D. Brunn Young Scholar Award.

(3) Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award: This award will be given to an individual who has used her or his political geographic expertise to affect change (in public thought or public policy) beyond the academy.

Élisabeth Vallet, University of Quebec at Montreal: Élisabeth has done a consistent and high-profile job translating academic work on borders and walls into the media, including a major series on borders in the *Washington Post*. She has also consulted with many other press outlets and is a regular radio and press commentator in the French Canadian media on this topic, as well as issues relating to U.S. presidential politics.

(4) Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award: This award will be given to the author(s) of the best book published during the previous calendar year in the field of political geography.

Violent Borders: Refugees and the Right to Move - Reece Jones (Verso) Forty thousand people died trying to cross international borders in the past decade, with the high-profile deaths along the shores of Europe only accounting for half of the grisly total. Reece Jones argues that these deaths are not exceptional, but rather the result of state attempts to contain populations and control access to resources and opportunities. "We may live in an era of globalization," he writes, "but much of the world is increasingly focused on limiting the free movement of people." In *Violent Borders*, Jones crosses the migrant trails of the world, documenting the billions of dollars spent on border security projects and their dire consequences for countless millions. While the poor are restricted by the lottery of birth to slum dwellings in the aftershocks of decolonization, the wealthy travel without constraint, exploiting pools of cheap labor and lax environmental regulations. With the growth of borders and resource enclosures, the deaths of migrants in search of a better life are intimately connected to climate change, environmental degradation, and the growth of global wealth inequality.

PGSG will cover the cost of attending the awards banquet on Sunday for those recipients able to attend.

V. General Discussion

Posters at preconference – feedback?

- may want to consider doing short illustrated posters, perhaps during breaks

Undergraduate Student Award

- discussion of limits on nomination, consensus to change from one nomination per institution to one nomination per faculty member

Corey Johnson reminded the group that if you are a lifetime AAG member you are not prompted to renew specialty group membership – you will need to remember to do on your own or membership will lapse.

Reece Jones commented that we should consider upping the amount of the travel scholarships. Also, ideally we should be giving out two Dissertation Enhancement Awards each year.

Giving out faculty awards certificates is new this year.

Discussion over communications – particularly PGSG listserv vs. AAG Knowledge Communities

- it is important to have space for discussion even if this is frustrating sometimes
- advantages to each, will continue to use both for now
- need a yearly reminder to members that there are two communications outlets

New Orleans preconference

- student board member will post CFPs to PGSG website upon request
- Tulane: not enough space, need to look elsewhere
- LSU (either Baton Rouge or their New Orleans Campus [Health Sciences Campus])
- an hour away – worth doing? have had decent attendance in the past in such cases
but still better only to do in rare cases when needed
- better to stay in the same city to make it affordable and easy to attend, esp. for grad. students
- board will also look at other options
- what about not taking all papers to help reduce schedule squeeze? if so, best among faculty, not grad. students
- if we have to limit submissions, perhaps create policy that 1st timers always get in
- but preference is not to have to evaluate and turn down abstracts
- earlier abstract deadline?
- we are a victim of our own success here
- plenaries are valuable PGSG-wide events

Faculty board members / other leadership positions – continue to require tenure-track status?

- what about those outside academia?
- consensus to change Bylaws to just “faculty” and leave it broadly/vaguely defined

other business / announcements:

- there was a question about the re-fashioned *Environment & Planning C* journal now subtitled *Politics and Space* and what political geographers are involved in that given that it is billed as critical political geography; someone responded that editors may not all be currently involved in PGSG, but there are definitely political geographers at the helm there

VI. Meeting Adjourned

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Madsen, PGSG Secretary-Treasurer. Posted to PGSG website 6/28/17.