

## **Social and Cultural Geography Research Group of the RGS/IBG Constitution**

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1. **Name:** The full name of the group is the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group, abbreviation SCGRG.
2. **Aims:** The Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG) embraces researchers and activists interested in the way the world works to produce social and cultural difference, engaging with key social science debates concerning identity, subjectivity, citizenship and belonging. The group's collective work emphasizes the connections between material and immaterial geographies, stressing that social injustice, poverty, and exclusion cannot be divorced from questions of representation and imagination. Likewise, it considers the shifting relations between cultural artefacts, practices and landscapes as they take shape in a mobile and seemingly global era. The group is committed to encouraging inclusive and accessible knowledges, destabilising hierarchical and centred knowledges in favour of those which foreground diversity and difference. As such, the group is keen to promote areas of geography that have often been 'othered' within the discipline, such as geographies of the life course, the body, sexuality, gender, disability, ethnicity and religion, as well as geographies of the non-human and the 'animal'.
3. **Organisational status:** The Research Group is a 'branch' of the Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers) and will satisfy the aims and policies of the Society, including Equal Opportunity policy, and the legal and Charity Commissioner requirements. The Research Group will deliver an Annual Report and statement of accounts to the Society by the 31 January of each calendar year at the very latest demonstrating that these aims and policies are being adhered to. The research group will be subject to a five yearly review of activities, membership and expenditure.
4. **Statement of membership:** Membership of the SCGRG is open to all members (including Postgraduate members) of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) who elect to join the Research Group, but shall never be less than 40.
5. Other interested persons who are not members of the RGS-IBG may join the SCGRG, subject to approval of the Research Group. The SCGRG maintains their own records of these members but will use the RGS-IBG membership lists when undertaking a mailing to members. Non RGS-IBG members may be charged an additional fee.
6. **Group business:** The business of the SCGRG shall be conducted by a Committee of no less than 3 members. Specified roles within the Committee will include the following: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. Each of these roles shall be undertaken by elected members of the RGS-IBG. The Research Group may have additional elected members on the Committee including newsletter/website editor, membership secretary, meetings and events co-ordinator, postgraduate co-ordinator, dissertation co-ordinator and publications co-ordinator. The Committee will have the power to co-opt up to two members. The majority of the Committee must be members of the RGS-IBG.
7. **Terms of office:** The offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and other committee members shall be for a period of three years. Honorary officers may stand for a second term of three years, but must relinquish their post after the sixth year of office. Retiring honorary officers shall not be eligible for re-election as an ordinary member of the Committee if they have served for 6 years, without first having a one-year break from the Committee. Ordinary Committee members shall be elected for a period of not more than

three years. Ordinary Committee members may stand for a second term of three years, but must relinquish their post after the sixth year of office. Postgraduate members shall be elected for a period of one year and shall not normally be eligible for re-election to the Committee for more than three terms of office.

8. **Elections:** Elections to the Committee will be held at the Annual General Meeting. Members will be informed in writing (email is acceptable) 30 days prior to the AGM of all vacancies to be filled. Nominations for Committee membership will be accepted up to the beginning of the AGM. Nominations must be in writing and include the names of the proposer and seconder.
9. **Annual General Meeting:** The AGM is normally be held at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference in late August/September. The SCGRG will present an Annual Report and Statement of Accounts to the RGS-IBG as requested, and normally by 31st January each year. This is to comply with Charity Commissioners guidelines. The Research Group will manage its funds with due care and for the benefit of the membership of the Research Group. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by either the Chair and four members of the Committee or by any 20 ordinary members of the SCGRG. The Secretary will give at least 30 days notice of an EGM in writing to all members of the SCGRG.
10. **Changes to the Constitution:** The constitution can be changed only by two-thirds majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting, provided that the membership has been individually notified of the proposed changes in writing or by email at least 30 days in advance. Research Group constitutions that have been altered by the AGM of the Research Group should then be submitted for approval by the Research Committee of the RGS-IBG at their next meeting. If the Research Group alters its constitution without informing the Research Committee by the time of its next meeting, the Research Committee will view this matter seriously and consider whether the group is contravening the aims of the RGS-IBG.
11. The activities of the Research Group will not contravene the aims of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). The SCGRG may be dissolved only in accordance with the rules of the RGS-IBG.