

## RGS-IBG Social and Cultural Geography Research Group

### Annual Report 2013

#### Summary

- As of January 2013 the group has 510 members (including 17 non-RGS fellows, according to the membership database). While this appears down from last year's figures of 611 members (from the mailing list), this is likely down to the change in methodology (from e-mail to the RGS database): new recruitment has been consistent, and many people may have been on the mailing list but not in the database).
- The SCGRG is £1747.59 in credit as of 31 December 2013.
- In 2013, the group sponsored and co-sponsored 11 paper sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference.
- The annual undergraduate dissertation prize was awarded to Helen Trimm, from Nottingham University and second prize to Simon Cook, Plymouth University.
- The SCGRG continues to maintain its online presence and communication with its members via the dedicated website <http://scqrq.org>, facebook and twitter.
- At the 2014 RGS-IBG conference, the SCGRG will be sponsoring 14 paper sessions, a postgraduate session via the Postgraduate Forum and a plenary.
- The committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed ideas, information and their energies to the group's activities during 2013.

#### 1. AGM and Committee Membership 2013

The AGM was held at the RGS-IBG Conference, London on Wednesday 28th August. The meeting was well attended and covered some wide ranging topics (see minutes). There were several changes to the committee (see below) and SCGRG thanked outgoing members of the committee for their work over the last few years.

The current full committee is as follows:

- Peter Adey (Chair)
- Sarah Mills (Secretary)
- Chris Bear (Treasurer)
- Franklin Ginn (Dissertation Co-ordinator)
- Rebecca Sandover (Conference Officer)
- Paul Simpson (Publications Officer)
- Kimberley Peters (Education Officer)
- James Ash (Website Officer)
- Sam Kinsley & James Robinson (Social Media Officers)
- Richard Scriven & Emma Spence (Postgraduate Representatives)
- Amanda Rogers, Harriet Hawkins, Hannah Macpherson, Tara Woodyer, Leila Dawney, Dan Swanton, Lucy Jackson (Ordinary Committee Members).

#### 2. RGS Annual Conference, London 2013

The SCGRG had a large number of applications for conference sponsorship for 2013. The final list of sponsored session was as follows:

- New frontiers of geographical knowledge and practice? Exploring creative methods and encounter Liz Bondi (University of Edinburgh), Hester Parr (University of Glasgow), Olivia Stevenson (University of Glasgow), Alette Willis (University of Edinburgh)
- Migration, Mobility, Border Spaces and Affective Childhoods Stuart Aitken (Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Youth and Space [ISYS], San Diego State University)
- Writing Geography Innes Keighren (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Fraser MacDonald (University of Edinburgh)
- Connecting elements Isla Forsyth (University of Nottingham) and Will Hasty (University of Edinburgh)
- The emotional geographies of natural disasters Stephanie Morrice (Royal Holloway, University of London)
- Immunitary Geographies Gail Davies (University of Exeter), Jamie Lorimer (University of Oxford) and Steve Hinchliffe (University of Exeter)
- Comforting Geographies Danny McNally and Laura Price (Royal Holloway, University of London) co-sponsored by the Women and Geography Study Group
- Affecting Heritage: revisiting the geographies and politics of heritage through affect and emotion Divya P. Tolia-Kelly (Durham, Geography), Emma Waterton (University of Western Sydney, Institute for Culture and Society) and Steve Watson (York St Johns University, Business School)
- The re-making of the national in the age of migration Marco Antonsich and Elizabeth Mavroudi (Loughborough University)
- Creativity and transition: exploring social reintegration and rehabilitation into civilian life Kim Ward (University of Exeter) and Agatha Herman (University of Plymouth)
- Participatory Science: museums, things and reasons to participate Hilary Geoghegan (UCL) to be held at Dana Centre, Science Museum.

The group was pleased to provide day passes for four research group guests (non-geographers based in the UK, and geographers and non-geographers from overseas):

*Atsuko Ichijo, Michael Skey, Nik Brown, Catherine Philips.*

### **3. 2013 Activities, Events and Outputs**

#### **i) Social and Cultural Geographies of Impact**

Following the SCGRG session on 'social and cultural geographies of impact' at the 2012 RGS-IBG Annual Conference (see Annual Report 2012), the organisers co-edited a special

intervention section of ACME. This is now available here: <http://www.acme-journal.org/volume13-1.html>. Within the first 44 hours of publication, the introduction had amassed 382 downloads and the photo essay 2088 downloads. Individual authors also had very high downloads for their papers in such a short space of time. Overall, the guest editors (Amanda, Chris, Mia, Sarah, and Rebecca) are pleased the output is now available after a lengthy editorial process. Many thanks to all involved.

Continuing this emphasis, the group is also involved in the co-organisation (with PolGRG, DARG and EGRG) of a research impact workshop, a preconference to the rgs-ibg Annual conference in August this year.

## ii. Reading & Writing Social and Cultural Geography – 1-3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013

This weekend event at Gregynog Hall, mid-Wales, was part-funded by SCGRG and the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, Aberystwyth University, with additional bursaries available from the ESRC Wales DTC. This event therefore captured the vision for the role of group resources – outlined at the AGM in 2013 - which is that as a group, we cannot completely fund events, but rather we can use subvention/group funds for match-funding or seed-corn funding in order to lever either institutional or external income. This approach resolves the long-running discussions over the previous ‘events fund’ in that we now have a sustainable approach to our group funds.

Richard Scriven, one of our postgraduate representatives, gave this report:

“The stately Gregynog Hall in Wales served as the setting for the ‘Reading and Writing Social and Cultural Geography Weekend’ organised by the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG) of the RGS-IBG. The event, which ran from the Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd November, was attended by twenty-eight geographers from across British universities and beyond, with three participants from international institutions. In attendance were early career researchers and postgraduates, ranging from Master’s students to final-year PhDs. Dr Rhys Dafydd Jones (Aberystwyth University) and Dr Sarah Mills (Loughborough University) coordinated the weekend which centred on discussions of articles from *Social and Cultural Geography* and explorations of writing and publishing. Prof. Peter Adey (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Dr Lucy Jackson (University of Sheffield) also facilitated sessions during the event.

In small groups, different articles clustered around a number of themes, including identity, mobilities and pedagogy, were discussed before a plenary consideration about the topics raised. Sessions on writing reflected on the styles and challenges of the writing process and provided a detailed example of getting an article published. Both in the formal sessions and the social spaces of meals and afternoon tea (with cake), there were fruitful conversations about the current nature of social and cultural geography (or geographies) and speculation was offered on potential avenues and styles of research. The weekend was a balance of debate and lively discussion, with accompanying socialising, in a most pleasant location”



#### **4. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize 2013**

The annual undergraduate dissertation prize was awarded to Helen Trimm, from Nottingham University. Helen's dissertation was titled "Reconstructing home as a site of care: an exploration into the changing meaning of home for elderly women". The committee was very impressed by the depth and subtlety of the empirical research and by the way Helen applied this to policy and academic debates about care, the elderly and home. Simon Cook, Plymouth University, claimed the Runner-up Prize for his dissertation "Jography: Exploring the Mobilities of Road-Running", which addressed a gap in the mobilities literature through his innovative ethnographic study.

Overall the standard of competition was extremely high, with 20 entries from universities across the UK. The Committee felt that the winner and runner-up showcased the very best work being produced by young social and cultural geographers in the UK. The winner receives £100 and both winner and runner-up receive a free subscription to the journal *Social & Cultural Geography*.

We are grateful for both students for allowing us to post full copies of their dissertations online. We look forward to continuing with the prize in 2014.

#### **5. RGS/IBG Annual Conference 2014 London**

The RGS-IBG Annual International Conference takes place at the Royal Geographical Society, London in August 2014. The chair of conference is Professor Wendy Larner and theme is 'Geographies of Co-production'. We are delighted to be sponsoring (and co-sponsoring in some cases) the following submitted paper sessions:

- Complicating the co-production of art: Hidden humans and acting objects
- Literary cartographies: the co-production of page and place.
- Scrapheap Challenge for Everyday Security
- Vertical Worlds
- Geographies of No Man's Lands: materiality, genealogy and agency
- Geographies of Making/Making Geographies: Creativity, Practices, Economies and Knowledges
- New Regional Geographies
- Geoaesthetics: Art, environment and co-production
- Defining the Spatiality of Co-Creation, Collaboration and Peer Production in the Digital Age
- Co-creating Climate Futures
- Military Mobilities
- Consumed, entangled, intermingled, co-constituted? Eating and the co-production of bodies

There will also be a SCGRG Plenary addressing the conference theme, and a special session entitled "Postgraduate Snapshots: Engagements in Social and Cultural Geography"

For further details of these sessions see <http://www.scgrg.org/conference/>

## 6. Financial reporting

There were two main income streams in 2013: the reduced subvention of £450 and payments for the Reading Weekend (£2720). Expenditure related to the Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (£100) and to the Reading Weekend (£3176). It should be noted that, in order to run this event, the SCGRG attracted additional support from Aberystwyth University (£500) and from the Wales ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (£400). The DTC funding allowed us to offer 10 bursaries to student participants (the students were paid directly by the DTC, so this does not appear in the SCGRG accounts). The Aberystwyth University contribution consisted of a more general subsidy, allowing the SCGRG to organise the event at no financial loss. In light of the reduced subvention, and a more general desire to ensure a sustainable future for this Research Group, we hope to be able to adopt this form of partnership to event organisation in the future. It should be noted that Aberystwyth University's contribution was made after the current accounting period, so will appear formally in the financial report for the year ending 31 December 2014.

### Research Group financial reporting form

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Research Group Name</b>                                | Social and Cultural Geography |
| Period  | 1.1.13-31.12.13               |
| Receipt and payments account                              |                               |
| <b>INCOME</b>   |                               |
| RGS-IBG subvention  | 450                           |
| RGS-IBG grant(s)  | 0                             |
| Other grants  | 0                             |
| Subscriptions   | 0                             |
| Conference income   | 2720                          |
| Meetings income   | 0                             |
| Royalties   | 0                             |
| Interest  | 0.44                          |
| Other income (please give details)                        | 0                             |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>  |                               |
| Committee expenses  | 0                             |
| Conference costs  | 3176                          |
| Meetings costs  | 0                             |
| Newsletter costs  | 0                             |
| Grants and awards   | 150                           |
| Other costs (website hosting fee)                         | 0                             |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                     | <b>3326</b>                   |
| Net surplus/deficit                                       | -155.56                       |
| Opening balance(s) - 1st January<br>(or alternative date) | 1903.15                       |
| Closing balances - 31st December                          | 1747.59                       |
| Closing balances comprised of:                            |                               |

**treasurer account**  
deposit account

It would help if you gave the additional information for BACS payments  
Address of branch where accounts are held  
Account number(s)  
Sort code

1747.59

The Co-operative Bank  
65292523 00

89299

Name of treasurer  
Email address of Treasurer  
Phone number of Treasurer

Christopher Bear  
[bearck@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:bearck@cardiff.ac.uk)  
029 2087 6181

**Prof. Peter Adey, Chair SCGRG**

**January 2014**