

RGS-IBG Social and Cultural Geography Research Group AGM 2019

**Friday 30th August 2019, Sir Alexander Fleming Building
Imperial College, London**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome

Richard Scriven (RS), standing in for Harriet Hawkins (HH), welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received were noted.

2. Minutes of AGM 2018

The minutes were confirmed.

3. Chair's Business

a. Medals & Awards reminder

RS noted that the RGS-IBG asks for nominations for awards and medals every year, with the closing dates in February. In her submitted report, HH encouraged about nominations and suggested that members could form partnerships to help put these together, they are not a lot of work, but the burden can fall on the chair.

b. Membership

It was noted that the group 510 members, comprised of 501 members who are some category of RGS-IBG Fellows and a further 9 non-fellows.

c. Distributing SCGRG Funds-

HH highlighted that the committee needs to decide on a bursary scheme to distribute money to wider membership, this is an issue that has been running on for the last few years. The bulk of funds each year are distributed to the postgraduate membership activities which is clearly a vital part our research group's activities. The group continues to receive ad hoc applications for funds, often quite large sums, which suggests in the absence of a formal scheme, people are unaware of the relatively low budgets we work with, and we are perhaps not able to manage this process as fairly as we might wish. This year we decided, as mandated by the committee last year to fund the Post-Grad forum conference to a significant extent.

4. Treasurer's Report:

The main income stream over the past year was the RGS subvention of £485, and an RGS grant of £500 to support the SCGRG's inaugural teaching workshop. Income expenditure related to three key activities: (1) Creative Teaching Workshop hosted by Reading University in December 2018 (£467.23); (2) bursaries for the RGS Mid-Term Conference held at Manchester Metropolitan University in April 2019 (2x£100 bursaries were awarded); and (3) the annual Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (£100).

This year's closing balance was £2,668.01 (as of September 2019). This slight decrease in funds over the course of the year is largely due to the bursary support provided for the teaching workshop. However, reserves remain very healthy, and will permit funding for additional events and bursary support over the coming year.

5. SCGRG @ AC2019 and Conference Officer's Report

Laura Prazeres (LP) was thanked for coordinating the sponsored sessions at the conference:

1. More-than-human haunted landscapes (3 sessions)
2. Geographies of Loneliness and Solitude (2 sessions)
3. Geographies of Alienation/Alienating Geographies
4. Time and Austerity: Troubled pasts/hopeful futures? (2 sessions)
5. Crafting Alterity: Creativity, Making, and Hope-Full Geographies (2 sessions)
6. 'Building better worlds': utopian and dystopian speculative fictions
7. The Geographies of Folk Horror: from the Strange Rural to the Urban Wyrd
8. Alternative Spaces of Learning
9. Collective feelings and contemporary conditions (2 sessions).
10. Postgraduate Snapshots of Trouble and Hope
11. Hypersurfaces: exploring the geographies of multi-dimensional bodies (2 sessions).

6. Education Officer's Report

Kim Peters (KP) highlighted the work of the committee in this area and thanked them for their ongoing support. Following decisions at previous meetings, the first SCGRG Biennial Teaching Research Workshop – aimed at engaging members, and those of other Research Groups, with contemporary debates and ideas shaping the pedagogic landscape in the discipline – was held in Museum of English Rural Life - University of Reading in December 2018. It was supported by the RGS and the University of Reading. It was a successful event and potential outputs were being discussed. KP thanked Hilary Geoghegan in particular for her co-leading the event.

7. Postgraduate Representatives' Report

Will Jamieson and Amy Walker noted their work with the PGF and the Committee's support for the PGF Mid-Term Conference.

8. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

SN noted the continuing popularity of the prize, and the broad range of social and cultural geography themes being covered. SN thanked everyone for their work in adjudicating the prize.

The prize had been awarded to Charles Couve, University of Manchester for his dissertation ‘More-than-human Manchester: Recombinance, Auras, and Dialectics in the Edges of Modernity’, and the runner up was William Silver, Durham University, for his dissertation on ‘Gordon Matta-Clark’s slices through space: artwork towards a critical understanding of the spatial’.

9. Changes in Committee Membership

HH’s report thanked all out-going committee members. She highlighted the work of KP as Education officer, and principally in planning, applying for funding for, and then delivering, with Hilary Geoghagen at Reading, the first teaching geography research workshop, with the aim that this is a longer running series. As conference officer, LP has done a wonderful job in advertising and coordinating our sponsored sessions and helping sift through and award the guest passes, supporting non-geographers and scholars outside UK and Europe to attend the conference. It has also been a pleasure to work with Amy Walker and Will Jamieson as post grad reps, responsible for helping ensure the future of SCGRG, including interfacing between the research group and the RGS post graduate forum, and their annual events. This is really important work to help us flourish, and we really appreciate your time in the midst of all the increasing pressures post-grads face! While both are eligible for a second term, we wanted to acknowledge your contribution this term-

RS noted that there were 6 vacancies, Chair; Education Officer; Conference Officer; PG Reps (x2); Ordinary Member (x1), and also extended his thanks to Kim Peters, Laura Prazeres, Amy Walker, Will Jamieson, and Lucy Jackson. He also noted Harriet Hawkins work as Chair in guiding the development of the Committee and Group over the past three years.

a. Chair:

Tara Woodyer (Prop: Hilary Geoghegan; Sec: James Robinson) was returned unopposed

b. Education Officer

Mark Holton (Prop: Kim Peters; Sec Jamie Halliwell) was returned unopposed

c. Conference Officer:

Will Andrews (Prop: Richard Scriven; Sec: Harriet Hawkins) was returned unopposed.

d. Ordinary committee members (x1):

Ben Anderson (Prop: Tara Woodyer; Sec: Harriet Hawkins) was returned unopposed.

e. Postgraduate representatives (x2):

Milena Morozova (Prop: Jen Owen; Sec: James Robinson) and William Jamieson (Prop: Jen Owen; Sec: Harriet Hawkins) were returned.

9. Future dates:

a. AC2020: 1-4th September, London

b. Research Groups sub-committee meeting: 7th October

10. AOB

Nothing to report.