

Summary

- SCGRG currently has 510 members, comprised of 501 members who are some category of RGS-IBG Fellows and a further 9 non-fellows.
- The SCGRG is £2,668.01 in credit as of 19th September 2019.
- In 2019, the group sponsored and co-sponsored 18 paper sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference.
- The annual undergraduate dissertation prize was awarded to Charles Couve (University of Manchester), with one runner-up, William Silver (Durham University).
- The committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed ideas, information and their energies to the group's activities during 2019.

1. AGM and Committee Membership 2019

The AGM was held at the RGS-IBG Conference, on Friday 30th August 2019. The meeting was very well attended and covered some wide ranging topics. 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:

- Tara Woodyer (Chair)
- Richard Scriven (Secretary)
- Mel Novicki (Treasurer)
- James Robinson (Membership Secretary)
- Sofie Narbed (Dissertation Co-ordinator)
- Will Andrews (Conference Officer)
- Mark Holton (Education Officer)
- Sophie Yarker (ECR and Mentoring Officer)
- Jen Owen (Social Media Officer)
- Jamie Halliwell (Website Officer)
- Milena Morozova and Will Jamieson (Postgraduate Representatives)
- Suzanne Hocknell, Suzanne Beech, Maddy Thompson, Sinéad O'Connor, Helen Wilson; Ben Anderson (Ordinary Committee Members).

2. RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2019

The SCGRG had a large number of applications for conference sponsorship for 2019, and sponsored 12 sessions. The final list of sponsored sessions is as follows:

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 Wyrld
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).

3. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

The annual undergraduate dissertation prize was awarded to Charles Couve (University of Manchester), for his dissertation "*More-than-human Manchester: Recombinance, Auras, and Dialectics in the Edges of Modernity*". The runner-up's prize was awarded to William Silver (Durham University), for his dissertation "*Gordon Matta-Clark's slices through space: artwork towards a critical understanding of the spatial*".

Once again, the overall standard of competition was very high, with 25 entries from universities across the UK. The winner receives £100 and the winner and the runner-up receive a free subscription to the journal *Social & Cultural Geography*.

We intend on continuing with the practice of uploading the dissertations once the website has been migrated to the RGS-IBG's server. We are grateful for both students for allowing us to post full copies of their dissertations on-line: <http://www.scgrg.rgs.org/dissertation-prize/>.

Last year, the SCGRG posted short interviews with the dissertation prize winners on the website. This has been continued this year, and we seek to develop it, possibly within a pedagogy-based geography journal.

We look forward to continuing with the prize in 2020. Thanks are extend to Sofie Narbed for coordinating the process during for 2019, and in other years.

4. Communication: Website, Social Media, Newsletter

The website (<https://scgrg.co.uk/>) continues to be a focus of our activity. This is support by our social media platforms which promote our activities and highlight social and cultural issues. In addition, the Committee is exploring the most effective way of producing a newsletter for the group's membership.

5. Financial reporting

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.

Dr Tara Woodyer, Chair SCGRG and Dr Richard Scriven, Secretary SCGRG

November 2019