

Summary

- SCGRG currently has 568 members, comprised of 531 members who are Fellows of the RGS-IBG and a further 38 non-fellows.
- The SCGRG is £2740.91 in credit as of 30th December 2018.
- In 2018, the group sponsored and co-sponsored 14 paper sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference.
- The annual undergraduate dissertation prize was awarded to Zainab Ravat (QMUL), with one runner-up, Kieran Green (Plymouth).
- The SCGRG is in the process of organising a workshop on teaching social & cultural geography during 2018.
- At the 2019 RGS-IBG annual conference, the SCGRG will be sponsoring 12 paper sessions, including another postgraduate session in collaboration with the Postgraduate Forum
- The committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed ideas, information and their energies to the group's activities during 2018.

1. AGM and Committee Membership 2018

The AGM was held at the RGS-IBG Conference, on Wednesday 29th August 2018. The meeting was very 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:

- Harriet Hawkins (Chair)
- Richard Scriven (Secretary)
- Mel Novicki (Treasurer)
- James Robinson (Membership Secretary)
- Sofie Narbed (Dissertation Co-ordinator)
- Laura Prazeres (Conference Officer)
- Kimberley Peters (Education Officer)
- Sophie Yarker (ECR and Mentoring Officer)
- Jen Owen (Social Media Officer)
- Jamie Halliwell (Website Officer)
- Amy Walker and Will Jamieson (Postgraduate Representatives)
- Suzanne Hocknell, Lucy Jackson, Rebecca Sandover, Suzanne Beech, Mark Holton, Maddy Thompson, Sinéad O'Connor, Helen Wilson (Ordinary Committee Members).

2. RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2018

The SCGRG had a large number of applications for conference sponsorship for 2017, and sponsored 12 sessions. The final list of sponsored sessions is as follows:

1. Cultural Politics of Lingerings
2. Everyday Landscapes of Memory (3 sessions)
3. New Geographies of Automation (session 2 – ‘Spacings’ only)
4. Historical-Cultural geographies of Exhibition and Display (session 3 only)
5. Geohumanities, literary cultures, and new landscapes of cartography (2 sessions)
6. Utility after abandonment? The new ruin as cultural asset and public space (3 sessions)
7. Landscapes of ‘detectorists’
8. Uncomfortable geographies (session 3 – ‘Unsettling bodies’ only)
9. Sonic spaces: music landscapes, soundscapes and identity (session 1 – ‘The social and cultural landscapes of sonic spaces’ only)
10. Over-researched places
11. Sandscapes: geographies of flux and flow (2 sessions).
 - The group also devoted a dedicated sponsored slot to our post-graduate membership, organised by our post-grad reps. This session was titled: “*Postgraduate snapshots in/of the landscape*”

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

- Sin Yee Koh (Monash University, Malaysia)
- Vidya Sagar Pancholi (University of Sheffield)
- Adam Tandy (TV producer and director)
- Basak Tanulku (independent researcher, Istanbul)
- Laura Denning (Bath Spa University)
- Paul Hurley (University of West of England).

3. 2017 Activities, Events and Outputs

i. Mentoring schem

The SCGRG mentoring scheme rolled-out in 2016 was continued in 2018. However, it was decided to examine alternative approaches to the informal approach to mentorship that took place from within the committee, which could be opened-up to the membership of the group more broadly. It was resolved at the 2017 AGM to create a new committee position with responsibility for mentoring and early career researcher issues; Sophie Yarker was appointed to this new post.

ii. SCGRG Teaching Research Workshop

The group’s first biennial *Teaching Research Workshop* was held in the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), Reading, UK, with twenty participants at different career stages. A series of developing online resources will be produced from the workshop to support teaching and learning in social & cultural geography. The workshop received funding from both the Research Group and the RGS-IBG. Thanks are extended to Kim Peters and Hilary Geoghegan for coordinating this event.

iii. SCGRG @ RGS-IBG PGF mid-term conference, Royal Holloway

Four bursaries of £55 each were provided to support attendance at the Postgraduate Forum mid-term conference in Cardiff in April.

iv. Austerity Politics and the Changing Landscapes of Inequality

The Group co-organised this pre-conference event held on Tuesday 28th August at Cardiff University with the Population Geography Research Group. Leila Dawney and Rhys Dafydd Jones coordinated the Group's efforts. 80 people attended the event, which saw a mixture of academic papers, contributions from film-makers, and a panel of practitioners. The group contributed £TBC.

4. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize 2018

The annual undergraduate dissertation prize was awarded to Zainab Ravat (QMUL). Zainab's dissertation was titled "*Photojournalism: explorations into the geographical witness, activist, and traveller*". The runner-up's prize was awarded to Kieran Green (Plymouth), for his dissertation "*In the Balance: unsettled space and sofa-surfing*".

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 pedagogic-based geography journal.

We look forward to continuing with the prize in 2019. Thanks are extend to Sofie Narbed for coordinating the process during for 2018, and in other years.

5. RGS/IBG Annual Conference 2019 London

The RGS-IBG Annual International Conference takes place in London in August 2019. The chair of conference is Professor Hester Parr and theme is '*Geographies of trouble / geographies of hope*'. We are delighted to be sponsoring (and co-sponsoring in some cases) the following submitted paper sessions:

1. 'Building better worlds': utopian and dystopian speculative fictions
2. The geographies of loneliness and solitude
3. Collective Feelings and Contemporary Conditions
4. Hypersurfaces: exploring the geographies of multi-dimensional bodies

5. Alternative Spaces of Learning
6. Crafting Alterity: Hopeful Geographies of Creativity and Making
7. More-than-human haunted landscapes: trace-ing binaries of hope/desolation
8. Geographies of alienation/alienating geographies
9. The Geographies of Folk Horror: from the Strange Rural to the Urban Wyrd
10. Time and Austerity: Troubled pasts/ hopeful futures?
11. Intergenerational and family perspectives on mobility, migration and care

As with last year, there will also be a SCGRG special session entitled “*Postgraduate Snapshots of Trouble and Hope*”.

6. Communication: Website, Social Media, Newsletter

The website (<https://www.scgrg.rgs.org>), which migrated over to the RGS-IBG server during 2017, 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.

7. Financial reporting

The main income stream over the past year was the RGS subvention of £475. Expenditure related to 4 bursaries for the PGF Mid-term conference (£220), contribution to the *Reflecting on qualitative methods postgraduate workshop* (£71.20), and the Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (£100). As a result, the Group recorded a surplus of £83.80. This is the fourth consecutive year that the SCGRG recorded a surplus, largely due to the removal of expenditure for webhosting. Our reserves are very healthy, and will permit funding for additional events over the coming year.

These planned events for 2018 include: 4x£50 bursaries for postgraduate members of the SCGRG to attend the PGF mid-term conference and the one-day ‘Teaching creative geographies’ workshop that will launch the biennial SCGRG Teaching Research Workshop, aimed at postgraduates/early-career researchers involved in teaching and learning.

Prof. Harriet Hawkins, Chair SCGRG

January 2019