

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Summary of activity

The Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG) remains highly active. We continue to award student prizes (details in the AGM minutes below) and are pleased to report that we receive a growing number of submissions each year. The Group focussed its event related activity on the Annual Conference in 2016. We again received more requests for sponsorship that we could fulfil, and we organised two special sessions: one focussing on the relationship between development and economic geography (entitled 'economic Africa'); another focussed on the findings of the 'In the business of economic geography' project (see below). Full details of sponsored sessions are on the EGRG website. A new Treasurer (Sarah Marie Hall) was elected at the AGM. Our current Postgraduate Representative took on the role of Events Officer, and was replaced by Amy Horton.

At the AGM a report was provided on discussions within the Group about future events outside of the Annual Conference. It was agreed to proceed with two initiatives in 2017: a networking event for postgraduates on the first day of the Mid-Term Conference in Cardiff; and a pre-Annual Conference event on Brexit in Summer 2017. Reports of these events will be provided in the next Annual Report.

The Group continued to sponsor the 'In the business of economic geography' project which was concluded in the first half of 2016. The research looks at the growing movement of economic geographers into business and management schools and the implications for the health of Economic Geography in the UK. A copy of initial findings is available via the EGRG website.

The materials below provide further information about Group activities, including a Treasurer's Report.

James Faulconbridge, December 2016

AGM Minutes
13.10-14.00, Thursday 1st September 2016
RGS-IBG Annual Conference, London

Attendance

James Faulconbridge (Chair), Al James (Web Officer), Adam Dixon (Treasurer), Emil Evenhuis (Postgraduate Rep), Steve Masson, Sarah Hall, Ron Martin, Jon Beaverstock, Amy Horton, Jennifer Johns (PhD Prizes Officer), Mike Bradshaw, Sarah Marie Hall (Events Officer)

Apologies

Karenjit Clare (Secretary), Karen Lai (International Officer)

Review and Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes from the 2015 AGM were approved

Chair's Report

James Falconbridge thanked the committee for their service over the last 12 months, particularly those members due to step down after three years in post: Adam Dixon (Treasurer), Emil Evenhuis (Postgraduate Rep), Sarah Marie Hall (Events Officer).

James also congratulated Ron Martin, this year's recipient of the RGS Victoria Medal.

James reported on EGRG activity in the past twelve months, including the project 'in the business of economic geography', sponsorship of sessions at the Annual Conference, and sponsorship of attendees at the global Economic Geography event.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported that the Group is in a good position financially. The main income for the group comes from the RGS, and special projects (such as book royalties).

It was suggested that the Group consider spending some of the current funds on activities over the next 12 months.

The written report below was circulated to all attendees.

EGRG Mid-Year Financial Update

AGM 22 August 2015

Balance carried forward at 31 December 2015: £2,196.65

INCOME (2015)

-

Total -

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE (2016)

SIEG Travel Grants £350.00

EGRG Movers Survey Prize £50.00

Total **£400.00**

Balance at 15 August 2014: **£1796.65**

(£8.35 in reserve account)

The EGRG is in roughly the same financial position than this time last year. The group continues to make savings from previous years with SAGE's sponsorship of the dissertation prizes and with webhosting now managed through the RGS.

So far this year the EGRG provided two travel grants of £175 to Amy Horton (QMUL) and Kelly Kay (LSE) to attend the Summer Institute in Economic Geography (SIEG) held at the University of Kentucky. EGRG also provided a small sum to the EGRG 'In the business of economic geography' project that was used to purchase a gift for a randomly chosen survey participant.

EGRG had agreed to support fieldwork for the 'In the business of economic geography' project of £350. This has not been invoiced. Once this is taken into account, the EGRG's financial position will close the year lower than in the previous 3 years by roughly this amount. However, it is the view of the Treasurer that the EGRG had a higher balance than necessary and the EGRG should continue to support initiatives that add value to economic geography in the UK.

Adam D. Dixon
Treasurer, EGRG

Future EGRG Events

A number of suggestions were raised for future EGRG events. Discussion ensued of preferred options, and some consensus was reached around:

- An event at the RGS-IBG mid-term conference 2017, in Cardiff, targeting postgraduate economic geographers;
- A UK economy post-Brexit event directly before the 2017 annual conference, potentially in collaboration with another research group.

The committee agreed to pursue these possibilities over the next 12 months.

Prizes

The Group's prizes for 2016 were confirmed/announced:

Best PhD dissertation: Erica Pani (Queen Mary, University of London)

Best Undergraduate Dissertation: Phoebe Kitchen (Durham)

James noted the Group's thanks to Sage for sponsoring both prizes.

Election

As three members were coming to the end of their three year terms, a vote was held for the following positions, for the term 2016-2019:

Committee position of Treasurer: Sarah Marie Hall was nominated by Adam Dixon and Seconded by Al James. Sarah's nomination was uncontested and confirmed.

Ordinary Member position of Events Officer: Emil Evenhuis was nominated, uncontested and confirmed.

Ordinary Member position of Postgrad Rep: Amy Horton was nominated, uncontested and confirmed.

AOB

The next AGM will be at the RGS-IBG 2017, London.

**Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG)
Treasurer's End of Year (December) Report on Annual Finances 2016**

1. The EGRG financial position remains consistent with the balance reported in August at the AGM. The group will receive its annual subvention from the RGS (£400) on 31st December.
2. In 2016 the EGRG provided two £175 travel awards to two UK-based early career scholars (Kelly Kay and Amy Horton) to attend the Summer Institute in Economic Geography at the University of Kentucky.
3. In 2016 the EGRG also provided £50 survey prize for the EGRG movers survey.
4. In 2017 the EGRG will provide £165 of support to three postgraduate scholars (£55 registration fee each) to attend the RGS-IBG Mid-Term Conference in Cardiff.
5. The EGRG will also in 2017 provide a return train ticket (£100 max) to Amy Horton (Postgrad Officer) to attend and help organise at the RGS-IBG Mid-Term Conference a Postgrad Economic Geography event, which will be held at the University of Cardiff. We will also fund refreshments at the post-grad event (estimated cost £200).
6. The EGRG is also organising a UK economy post-Brexit event directly before the 2017 annual conference, in collaboration with the Political Geography research group. We have assigned £200 to subsidise this event, although we anticipate it may be self-funding (or even make a small profit).
7. The financial position of the EGRG is generally very healthy.