

# ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012, RGS-IBG Edinburgh 1.10pm, Appleton Tower Room 2.07

1. The minutes of the 2011 AGM were approved.
  2. The EGRG committee:
    - Chair: Andrew Jones (Birkbeck, University of London)
    - Secretary: Steve Musson (University of Reading)
    - Treasurer: Jennifer Johns (University of Liverpool)
    - Events Officer: Sarah Hall (University of Nottingham)
    - Book Review Editor: Kim Ward (University of Exeter)
    - Book Review Editor: Jenny Barnett (University of Exeter)
    - Conference Manager: Kendra Strauss (University of Cambridge)
  - a) Andrew Jones is due to step down after three years of excellent service and hard work as Chair of the EGRG. After committee consultation, Alex Hughes (University of Newcastle) has agreed to take over the role as Chair. The committee welcomes her.
  - b) Laura James is stepping down as Events Officer. The Committee thanks her for her hard work supporting the EGRG.
  - c) Kendra Strauss (University of Cambridge) has joined the EGRG as Conference Manager.
  - d) The Chair drew attention to the EGRG website and two related issues. First, the registration and payment of hosting the site was previously done by Neil Coe. The Treasurer confirmed that this had now been transferred into her name and can easily be changed online so that in future the Treasurer will be responsible for this. Second, Graham Bowden (University of Manchester) continues to offer unpaid time and assistance in maintaining the site. The Committee asked the Treasurer to arrange for a gift to be sent to Graham to thank him for this.
3. Last Year's Activities
    - a. At the 2012 RGS/IBG Conference in Edinburgh the EGRG sponsored 8 sessions:
      - 1) Evolutionary and institutional perspectives on the multinational corporation-institution nexus
      - 2) Expanding the Economic Geography – Development Geography ‘Trading Zone’
      - 3) Evolution, Structuring or Dissolution of Cultural and Creative Industries through temporary spatial proximity
      - 4) Geographies of Young Adulthood and Employment Insecurity (with GCYFRG)
      - 5) Historical Geographies of Creative Economies (with HGRG)

- 6) Negotiating a new world of work: the geographies of labour market intermediaries
- 7) Product as Process, Position and Promise: Exploring the qualities, qualification and spatial dynamics of products
- 8) Spatialities of Digital and Creative Work

Overall, it was felt the EGRG continues to demonstrate a very strong presence at the RGS-IBG conference through a wide range of high-profile sessions, and through co-sponsorship of sessions with other research groups.

The EGRG aims to make sessions as international as possible. This year Swedish economic geographers were encouraged to attend, some of which did so (many presenting the Product as Process sessions).

Next year the conference theme is 'Frontiers' so it should be easier to slot EG in. It is anticipated that we will continue to have many sessions.

EGRG members will ideas for sessions, particularly broad high profile sessions should contact Alex or Steve as soon as possible. Discussions are currently taking place about sessions that develop the relationship with Development Geographies (DARG). In addition, if members wish to invite a keynote speaker the EGRG has the capacity to fund two registrations and potentially some limited travel.

b. Prizes.

This year the PhD prize was won by Sarah M Hall (University of Liverpool) for her thesis titled 'Exploring and Articulating Ethics in Consumption: A Multi-Method Analysis of the Ethics of Consumption'. A masters prize was not awarded. After discussion amongst the Committee it was decided that the EGRG would award an undergraduate dissertation prize from 2013 onwards. This requires updating the RGS and circulating this information to geography departments (Steve has taken on this task).

c. Association of International Business Conference 2012

The EGRG received an invitation for members to attend this conference at a reduced rate, sponsored by the University of Liverpool Management School. A key theme of the conference was Economic Geography and several economic geographers attended, including Henry Yeung (as a keynote speaker), Andrew Jones and Jennifer Johns.

#### 4. Research Activities

- a. The EGRG received a request from HEFCE for nominations for an additional panel member. After Committee discussion, Katie Willis and Nina Laurie were suggested. The RGS is now drawing up a shortlist.
- b. ESRC International Benchmarking. Several EGRG committee members were involved in this process. Meetings took place at the RGS in London, May 2012. In addition, Jane Pollard submitted a written submission for EG which positioned EG and reviewed the state of EG in the UK. Feedback has been positive. A document will be made publically available via the ESRC website in September. However, much documentation will not be released.

#### 5. Forthcoming events:

- a. Annual Symposium

These used to be held in May, but over recent years have been held in November. The Committee feels that November is a more successful time. A half day postgraduate symposium is held at the same time. Alex Hughes has offered to host this year at Newcastle. Members with ideas for a theme should contact Alex or Steve.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer reported that the EGRG accounts are currently healthy, due in the main to the editors fees and advance on royalties received from Sage for the *Economic Geographies of the UK* textbook edited by Neil Coe and Andrew Jones.

Main financial activities include the funding of a Brazilian student, Marcos Souza, to attend the Economic Geography Summer Institute in Zurich. The prize was for £500. The EGRG paid an additional £32.50 for the international transfer. The Treasurer felt it was important to cover all the costs of the transfer. The Committee noted that in leaner times this may not always be possible. The EGRG received £510.00 from the University of Liverpool for the funding of EGRG members to attend the AIB conference. These funds have been paid out to attending members.

The Treasurer requested that the EGRG account become accessible online. This requires forms to be completed with Chair and Secretary signatures. The Committee agreed that it was a good idea so Jennifer will proceed with arranging this.

#### 7. AOB

The EGRG is hosting a reception at the RGS/IBG this year at the Wash Bar, on the Mound. The EGRG has put £150 behind the bar to pay for drinks. It will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.30 pm.

Thanks were recorded to Andrew Jones for all his hard work as Chair of the EGRG for the last three years.

Date of next meeting: tbc

JJ, July 2012