

## **Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG) Chair's Annual Report, January 2013**

### **Current Committee**

**Chair** Alex Hughes (Newcastle University, 2012-2015)

**Secretary** Steven Musson (University of Reading, 2011-2014)

**Treasurer** Jennifer Johns (University of Liverpool, 2010-2013)

**Annual Events Officers** Sarah Hall (University of Nottingham)

**Book Review Editors** Jenny Barnett (University of Exeter)

### **Activities in 2012**

The EGRG continues to be a thriving and highly active research group of the RGS/IBG and has enjoyed a very successful year during 2012.

#### *(i) The RGS-IBG Annual Conference, Edinburgh July 2012*

The EGRG received a large number of requests for sponsorship. We were able to sponsor the following sessions, many of them jointly with other research groups:

- Historical Geographies of Creative Economies (Nicola Thomas (Exeter) and Doreen Jakob)
- Geographies of Young Adulthood and Employment Insecurity (Phillip Kelly (York, Canada) and Esther Rootham (Oxford))
- Evolutionary and Institutional Perspectives on the Multinational Corporation-Institution Nexus (Crispian Fuller (Aston) and Nick Phelps)
- Piracy: Impetiment or Imperative for Innovation and Growth? (Rachel Granger (Coventry))
- Product as Process, Position and Promise: Exploring the qualities, qualification and spatial dynamics of goods, services and experiences (Jenny Sjöholm and Brian Hraacs (Uppsala))
- Negotiating a New World of Work: the Geographies of Labour Market Intermediaries (Jennifer Watts (Manchester) and Bryony Enwright (Birmingham))
- Field-configuring Events – Evolution, Structuring or Dissolution of Cultural and Creative Industries through Temporary Spatial Proximity (Lech Suwala and Bastian Lange (Humboldt-University Berlin), Dominic Power (Uppsala))
- Capital switching and property led-development – Security issues and the geography of finance and real estate (Sabine Dörry (CEPS/INSTEAD Luxembourg) and Michael Handke (University of Heidelberg))
- Expanding the Economic Geography – Development Geography 'Trading Zone' (Al James (QMUL), Kavita Datta (QMUL), Jane Pollard (Newcastle), Bhaskar Vira (Cambridge))

We invited one conference guest, Professor Rob Macdonald (Sociology, Teeside), who presented in the session on Geographies of Young Adulthood and Employment Insecurity.

The EGRG also held an informal reception for economic geographers during the conference.

#### *(ii) EGRG Annual Symposium, November 2012*

EGRG retained the pattern of its events from the previous two years, with its annual symposium held in late November. This year the chosen title was '**Economic Geographies of**

**Sustainability'** and the event took place on 29<sup>th</sup> November at Newcastle University. It was jointly organized with the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS). The event was well attended with around 30-35 participants through the day and there were six papers presented:

- Stuart Dawley (Newcastle University): Creating new paths? Offshore wind, policy activism and peripheral region development
- Alex Nurse (University of Liverpool): Developing the low carbon economy on Merseyside: reflections from a KE project
- Mike Crang (Durham University): Green but not clean? Global flows and local clustering in industrial symbiosis
- Cheryl McEwan (Durham University) and Dr Alex Hughes (Newcastle University): Ethics, global production networks and the political-economies of expectation in biodiversity conservation
- James Faulconbridge (Lancaster University): Bringing economic geography to bear on questions of environmental sustainability: the case of mobile green design knowledge
- David Gibbs (University of Hull): The green economy, sustainability transitions and transition regions (written paper contributed)

*(iii) Postgraduate Workshop, November 2012*

On the previous day, a half-day Postgraduate Workshop was held, at which discussion on postgraduate publishing took place and the following papers were presented:

- Charlotte Johnson (Newcastle University): Valuing the Home: Credit and Kin Relations in Belgrade
- Rebecca Richardson (Newcastle University): Cooperation, Partnership and Leadership: Place Branding in Three European Cities
- Mark Grimes (BPP Law School, London): EU Accession and Malta's New Geo-economic Strategy
- Emil Evenhuis (Newcastle University): The Political Economy of Adaptation in Old Industrial Regions

*(iv) Postgraduate activities*

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'.

**Future Activities**

The EGRG is going to sponsor sessions by the following convenors for the annual RGS-IBG conference, which moves back to London in 2013:

Sabine Dorry;  
Kendra Strauss and Ceri Oeppen;  
Neil Coe, Karen Lai, Dariusz Wojcik;  
Jon Beaverstock, Sarah Hall, Andrew Jones;  
Robert Hassink;  
John Harrison and Julie MacLeavy (joint with Urban Geography);  
Suzy Reimer, Phil Pinch and Justin Spinney (joint with Transport Research Group);  
Sarah Marie Hall (joint request with Children's Geography Research Group);  
Mike Raco, Emma Street and Steve Musson (joint request with Planning/Environments  
Research Group).

***Finally***

The Committee would also like to reiterate their ongoing thanks to Graham Bowden at the University of Manchester for all his unpaid assistance with the website and other EGRG activities.

**Alex Hughes, EGRG Chair, January 2013**