

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

MINUTES

1:10-2:00pm, Thursday 29th August 2013

Room 120, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Imperial College

1. **Attendance:** Dr Alex Hughes (Chair), Dr Steve Musson (Secretary) and 18 other members of the Economic Geography Research Group.
2. **Apologies** for absence were received from Prof Adam Tickell and Dr Jenny Johns.
3. **Minutes of the 2012 AGM** were circulated in advance of the meeting and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **EGRG Committee:** Dr Alex Hughes initiated a discussion on membership of the EGRG committee. It was noted that Dr Jenny Johns' term as Treasurer was due to expire and that Dr Steve Musson's term as Secretary would end at the 2014 AGM. Dr Hughes also noted that Drs Kim Ward, Jenny Barnett and Kendra Strauss also wished to stand down as ordinary members of the committee. A call was made for new committee members.

Dr Adam Dixon was elected, unopposed, as Treasurer (proposed by: Dorothea Klein, seconded by: Andrew Jones)

Dr Sarah Marie Hall (prop: Sarah Jane Hall, sec: James Faulconbridge), Dr Karen Lai (prop: Sarah Jane Hall, sec: Andrew Jones) and Dr Al James (prop: Alex Hughes, sec: Karen Lai), were also elected, unopposed, as Ordinary Committee Members.

5. **2012-13 Activities:** Dr Steve Musson noted that EGRG-sponsored sessions from the 2012 and 2013 Annual Conferences were listed on the EGRG website. He also called for a greater number of EGRG-sponsored Annual Conference guests; the Research Group had underused its allocation in recent years.

Dr Alex Hughes reported on the 2012 Annual Symposium, held in Newcastle in November 2012.

6. **Forthcoming events:** Dr Alex Hughes consulted on the timing and theme of the 2013 Annual Symposium. A discussion followed, during which Dr Sarah J Hall supported a proposal to hold the Annual Symposium every two years. Prof Andrew Jones suggested linking events at the 2015 Annual Conference to the 2015 Global Conference on Economic Geography, which will be held in Oxford in late Summer 2015.

It was decided not to hold a 2013 EGRG Annual Symposium, to explore the possibility of holding a joint symposium with the Political Geography Research Group in 2014 on the politics of impact in geography, and to discuss links to the

2015 Global Conference on Economic Geography with Darius Wójcik, the local organiser.

7. **Treasurer's report:** This was tabled at the AGM and Dr Alex Hughes annotated the contents. It was noted that the opening balance at 1/1/13 was £1388.23, that income to date was £550.00, that expenditure to date was £420.40, and that the balance at 1/8/13 was £1517.83.
8. **International Benchmarking Review:** Members of the EGRG discussed the recommendations made in the recent International Benchmarking Review for UK Human Geography. It was noted that, while the report points to the vitality of Economic Geography research, an increasing number of Economic Geographers are located in Business Schools. The discussion moved on to the training and reproduction of Economic Geographers, in particular the availability of doctoral training funding in Geography and the share of this funding being won by Economic Geographers.
9. **Conference location 2015:** A strong preference was expressed for a location within easy reach of Oxford. This would make the 2015 Annual Conference more accessible to delegates attending the Global Conference on Economic Geography.
10. **AOB:** None
11. **Date of next meeting:** tbc (to be held during the 2014 RGS-IBG Annual Conference)