

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

MINUTES

1:10-2:25pm, Wednesday 27th August 2014
RGS-IBG Lowther Room (RGS-LR)

1. Attendance

Alex Hughes (Chair), Steve Musson (Secretary, Minutes), Adam Dixon (Treasurer), Nicholas Allo, Andrea Burris, Karenjit Clare, Emil Evenhuis, James Faulconbridge, Al James, Jennifer Johns, Karen Lai, Laura-Marie Topfer, Dariusz Wojcik.

2. Apologies for absence: Sarah J Hall, Sarah M Hall

3. Minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved

4. EGRG Committee

Alex Hughes thanked Steve Musson (outgoing secretary). Karenjit Clare was proposed by Al James and seconded by Steve Musson as secretary. There were no other nominations and Karenjit Clare was elected unopposed.

Alex Hughes reminded members that she would be stepping down as Chair at the 2015 AGM, so a replacement would be needed.

EGRG Committee 2014-15:

Name	Role	Term
Alex Hughes (Newcastle)	Chair	2013-15
Karenjit Clare (Loughborough)	Secretary	2014-17
Adam Dixon (Bristol)	Treasurer	2013-16
Emil Evenhuis (Newcastle)	Postgraduate	Co-opted
Sarah M Hall (Manchester)	Member	Co-opted
Al James (QMUL)	Web Officer	Co-opted
Jennifer Johns (Liverpool)	Prizes	Co-opted
Karen Lai (Nat. Univ. Singapore)	International	Co-opted

5. Activities September 2013 to August 2014:

a. New EGRG website

Alex Hughes thanked Al James for re-designing the website and migrating it to the RGS-IBG platform. Al James agreed to carry on as web officer for 2014-15.

b. EGRG allocated sessions at the 2013 RGS-IBG Conference

Steve Musson reported that eleven paper sessions and one poster session had been sponsored – a full allocation. Two conference guests had been invited. There is scope to invite up to eight conference guests per year.

c. EGRG pre-conference workshop on ‘Generating Research Impact’

Alex Hughes reported the success of this event, which was attended by 160 people on Tuesday 26th August 2014. The programme and main findings were summarised. Alex thanked the RGS-IBG for a £500 conference support grant. She noted there are advantages to holding events at the RGS-IBG, especially help with organisation and set-up. Alex thanked Catherine Souch and Stephanie Wyse for their support, and Emil Evenhaus, Glyn Williams, Karen Lai and Steve Musson for their support on the day. Alex was thanked for organising the event.

d. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

Alex Hughes reported that SAGE had offered a dissertation prize worth £150 per year, plus two SAGE texts.

A discussion followed about other prizes and it was decided that a PhD and UG dissertation prize would be retained and SAGE would be approached with a view to sponsoring both. Jennifer Johns agreed to act as prizes co-ordinator.

Entries for 2014 UG dissertation prize (circulated by Steve Musson):

Candidate	Institution	Title
Matthew McAuley	QMUL	The usual suspects: Cities and Globalisation in Africa
Lik Hang Jim	Durham	Biopolitical exploitations – the case of Indonesian foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong SAR, China
Matthew Lantesberry	Oxford	Peer-to-peer lending its financial ecology and the governing of ‘investor’ subjects
Ciara Borkowski	Nottingham	Retail rewired: exploring the convergence of physical and digital fashion worlds through Burberry
Yasmin Merican	Edinburgh	All food is ethical: exploring the negotiation of everyday ethics and ethical food
Milan Sud	Leicester	The business process outsourcing sector in India: an investigation into the BPO sector through aspirations of Indian BPO employees
Matthew Merrison	Southampton	Corporate social responsibility: an investigation into consumer impacts and perceptions
Thomas Heather	KCL	Why do sovereign wealth funds often invest heavily in global real estate, with a specific focus on Qatari ownership of London real estate assets?

Post AGM event: the 2014 EGRG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize was awarded to Yasmin Merican (Edinburgh) by the judging panel, Alex Hughes and Steve Musson, on 2nd September 2014.

e. EGRG sponsorship of travel award for Summer Institute

It was noted that the EGRG had sponsored travel for one student to attend the Economic Geography Summer Institute at Frankfurt. Felipe Magalhaes, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, received an award of \$500.

6. EGRG involvement at 4th Global Conference on Economic Geography 2015

Dariusz Wojcik outlined plans for this event, in Oxford from 19-25 August 2015. He noted the twin objectives of the conference, to promote Economic Geography within Geography and to promote the United Kingdom within Economic Geography. He asked for financial and in-kind support from the EGRG. Alex Hughes agreed a committee member should be identified to take the lead on this, while Adam Dixon agreed funds could be made available to support travel sponsorship and / or fee waivers, especially for PG and early career researchers, within the context of the EGRG's overall financial circumstances.

7. Treasurer's report

A mid-year financial update was tabled by Adam Dixon, showing income since January 2014 of £79, expenditure of £443.08 and a balance carried forward of £1920.45. The major item of expenditure was £335.50 travel sponsorship for the Economic Geography Summer Institute (see 5.e above). It was noted the financial contribution of the EGRG pre-conference workshop on 'Generating Research Impact' had not yet been received.

8. EGRG collaboration with Summer Institute

Alex Hughes reported on a conversation with Jamie Peck about ongoing EGRG support for the Summer Institute in Economic Geography. Alex suggested the EGRG might consider organising events in years when the SIEG was not held. A discussion followed about the nature of financial support from the EGRG to the SIEG. James Faulconbridge suggested funding be prioritised towards attendees from UK institutions. This proposal was accepted and it was also requested future recipients of funding to attend the SIEG should write a brief report for the EGRG website.

9. AOB

Alex Hughes reported that Routledge had experienced difficulties in contacting potential authors for a series of monographs and edited collections on Economic Geography and expressed concern that this series might not go ahead.

10. Date of next meeting: tbc (to be held during the 2015 RGS-IBG Annual Conference)