

## **ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

### **Summary of activity**

It has been another productive year for the research group. Prizes were again awarded for PhD and Undergraduate dissertations (details in the AGM minutes below). After organising a pre-Annual Conference symposium on impact in 2014 it was decided not to run a symposium in 2015 – following the principle adopted in 2012 that events should be bi-annual and larger-scale rather than smaller scale annual events. 2015 saw the Global Economic Geography Conference take place in Oxford. The Group had a presence at the event and held its AGM there. Despite this, there was still significant Group activity at the Annual Conference (see below for details of session sponsorship). The Group's website continues to provide a valuable resource and information about activities and is updated regularly (thanks to Al James). The Group has sponsored a new project ('In the business of economic geography') with further (gratefully received) support from the RGS research fund. 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. This is ongoing and will feed into activities in 2016.

A new Chair (James Faulconbridge) we elected at the AGM. Working with the existing committee members (names and roles outlined below), a number of plans have been developed in the final months of 2015 for further activity in 2016. These include using on the ongoing 'In the business of economic geography' as a focus for a research workshop and symposium in 2016 and renewal of the Group's postgrad community through both new committee membership and new online and seminar activities. These plans will be developed in early 2016 and reported on in the next annual report. Plans are in place to sponsor various sessions at the 2016 Annual Conference, with discussions ongoing with the Developing Areas Research Group about the possibility of a number of joint sessions on the Development-Economic Geography Nexus.

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

James Faulconbridge, December 2015

## AGM Minutes

**Time and date:** 8:30am, Saturday 22nd August 2015

**Venue:** Global Economic Geography Conference, Oxford

### 1) Attendance

Alex Hughes (Chair), Karenjit Clare (Secretary, Minutes), Adam Dixon (Treasurer), James Faulconbridge, Al James, Neil Smith, Emil Evenhuis.

### 2) Minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved

### 3) EGRG Committee

Alex Hughes informed members that James Faulconbridge would take over the role of Chair from September 2015. The group thanked Alex for her hard work as Chair and Al James for designing and updating the website.

Alex Hughes reminded members that Emil Evenhuis would be stepping down as the Postgraduate member, so a replacement would be needed. For this role, a suggestion of having one PhD and one post-graduate member was brought up as well as re-naming the position as early career.

#### EGRG Committee 2015-16:

Name	Role	Term
James Faulconbridge (Lancaster)	Chair	2015-17
Karenjit Clare (Loughborough)	Secretary	2014-17
Adam Dixon (Bristol)	Treasurer	2013-16
	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. Treasurer's Report

### Mid-Year Financial Update

Balance carried forward at 31 December 2014: £2,290

INCOME (2015)

-

**Total –**

EXPENDITURE (2015)

GCEG Travel Grant (L. Richardson) 300.00

**Total 300.00**

**Balance at 15 August 2015: £1990.00**  
(£8.35 in reserve account)

The EGRG is in roughly the same financial position than this time last year. The group has made savings from previous years with SAGE's sponsorship of the dissertation prizes and with web hosting now managed through the RGS. The group also made a slight profit with the 'impact' workshop held at last year's RGS meeting, thanks to the hard work of EGRG Chair Alex Hughes. So far this year the group has incurred one charge with the sponsorship of a travel grant to the GCEG.

The Summer Institute in Economic Geography (SIEG) will be held again in 2016 at the University of Kentucky. EGRG has been asked to provide financial support in the form of a travel grant(s), which the group has done in the past. It is the view of the Treasurer that the group can provide grants between £300-£500. If, however, the EGRG intends to hold a symposium in 2016, the group may want to consider limiting the size of the award. Given the poor attendance of UK-based PhD/early-career scholars at the last SIEG, the group may want to consider limiting the award to EGRG members.

Overall, the financial position of the EGRG is healthy.

### 6) Dissertation Prizes

The 2015 EGRG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize was awarded to Harriet Lawrence (Durham).

Aiden Wong (QMUL) received the EGRG PhD Prize. The work was reviewed by the EGRG judging panel: Alex Hughes, Karenjit Clare and Adam Dixon.

### 7) Project: In the Business of Economic Geography (UK)

- i) Get an overview of economic geographers in business schools (number of people)

- ii) There has been a move of relatively senior scholars in economic geography.  
What has been happening? What will this mean for the future of economic geography?
- iii) Who has moved? Why have they moved?
  - a. Phase 2: Online questionnaires
  - b. Phase 3: Interviews
- iv) In business schools, what research groups are economic geographers moving into?

In spring, a report will be presented to the RGS group.

We need to link these issues to the next EGRG symposium.

### **8) Collaboration with the Economic Geography Summer Institute**

- i) UK based economic geographer will receive a £350 scholarship
- ii) They can then report to the AGM (verbally) of their experience.

**Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG)  
Treasurer's End of Year (December) Report on Annual Finances 2015**

1. The EGRG financial position remains consistent with the balance reported in August at the AGM. However, the accounts have been balanced in relation to the expenditure for the 'Impact Workshop' held at the 2014 RGS Annual Meeting. A cheque for £180 had been sent to the Developing Areas Research Group, but this was not deposited within the 90-day period during which the cheque was valid. Subsequently, a new cheque was sent in September 2015.
2. The EGRG provided a £300 travel stipend to a UK-based early career scholar (Lizzie Richardson) to attend the Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography.
3. In 2016 the EGRG will provide £350 of support to Bradshaw, Coe, and James with their research project on economic geographers in business schools. A £50 allocation was made for this project in December 2015 to support the online survey.
4. The EGRG will also in 2016 provide a £350 travel stipend to a UK-based PhD/early career scholar to attend the Summer Institute in Economic Geography, which will be held at the University of Kentucky.
5. The financial position of the EGRG is generally very healthy.

## **Annual Conference 2015 session sponsorship**

### ***Wednesday 2nd Sep 2015***

*Alternative experiments: spaces of learning and innovation at the grassroots (1)*

Convenors: Noel Longhurst (University of East Anglia, UK) and Jana Wendler (University of Manchester, UK)

Wednesday Session 1 (09:00-10:40)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/27>

*Alternative experiments: spaces of learning and innovation at the grassroots (2)*

Convenors: Noel Longhurst (University of East Anglia, UK) and Jana Wendler (University of Manchester, UK)

Wednesday Session 2 (11:10-12:50)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/53>

*Risk and Complexity in Finance and Beyond (1): Geographies of Risk*

Convenors: Philip Garnett (The University of York, UK) and John H. Morris (Durham University, UK)

Wednesday Session 3 (14:40-16:20)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/61>

*Risk and Complexity in Finance and Beyond (2) Working with Complexity*

Convenors: Philip Garnett (The University of York, UK) and John H. Morris (Durham University, UK)

Wednesday Session 4 (16:50-18:30)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/87>

### ***Thursday 3rd Sep 2015***

*Critical geographies of the sharing economy (1) Sharing communities*

Convenors: Ramon Ribera-Fumaz (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain) and Filippo Celata (University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy)

Thursday Session 1 (09:00-10:40)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/111>

*Critical geographies of the sharing economy (2) Sharing Networks*

Convenors: Ramon Ribera-Fumaz (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain) and Filippo Celata (University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy)

Thursday Session 2 (11:10-12:50)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/136>

*Critical geographies of the sharing economy (3) Sharing places*

Convenors: Ramon Ribera-Fumaz (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain) and Filippo Celata (University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy)

Thursday Session 3 (14:40-16:20)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/163>

*Transnational Energy Investments in the South*

Convenors: Jon Phillips (King's College London, UK) and Joshua Kirshner (The University of York, UK)

Thursday Session 4 (16:50-18:30)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/201>

***Friday 4th Sep 2015***

*Geographies of debt and indebtedness: everyday and comparative frames (1)*

Convenors: Christopher Harker (Durham University, UK) and Samuel Kirwan (University of Bristol, UK)

Friday Session 1 (09:00-10:40)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015/217>

*Geographies of debt and indebtedness: everyday and comparative frames (2)*

Convenors: Christopher Harker (Durham University, UK) and Samuel Kirwan (University of Bristol, UK)

Friday Session 2 (11:10-12:50)

See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2015239>