

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Summary of activity

The Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG) had a very productive year. We awarded our student prizes (details in the AGM minutes below) with healthy competition for each prize. Sage continues to sponsor our Undergraduate prize. The Group organised with the Political Geography Research Group a pre-Annual Conference event on Brexit that attracted over 100 registrations. This generated a small profit for each group. We again received more requests for sponsorship at the Annual Conference than we could fulfil. Full details of sponsored sessions are on the EGRG website. A new Secretary (Chris Mullerleile) was elected at the AGM, along with two post-grad reps (Nora Lanari and Dominic Obeng). We established a new 'ordinary member' role –for early career researchers (filled by Alexandra Dales).

We organised a very successful a networking event for postgraduates on the first day of the Mid-Term Conference in Cardiff. This will be repeated at the 2018 mid-term conference. We launched a questionnaire for early career researchers to identify ways the EGRG can support them. The results will inform activity in 2018. We have provided funding for two postgrad or early career scholars to attend the Global Economic Geography conference in 2018.

The Group completed the 'In the business of economic geography' project. We held an event jointly with geographers at Cardiff University to discuss the implications of the report. A full report will be published in early 2018 along with a paper in the Exchanges section of Environment and Planning A.

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

James Faulconbridge, December 2017

MINUTES

Economic Geography Research Group Annual General Meeting 2017

13:10-14:00, Thursday 31st August 2017: RGS-IBG Annual Conference, London
Venue: Council Room, RGS-IBG main building

Attendees: James Faulconbridge (Chair), Chris Muellerleile, Karenjit Clare, Alexandra Dales, Nora Lanari, Emil Evenhuis, Neil Coe, Jon Beaverstock, Mike Bradshaw, Karen Lai, Al James,

Apologies: Sarah M Hall, Jennifer Johns, Amy Horton

James Faulconbridge welcome everyone to the meeting. He presented and asked for confirmation of the minutes of the 2016 AGM, with the minutes being approved by those present.

The treasurer's mid-year report was presented. It was noted that the EGRG continues to have a healthy level of funds, and that there should be continued emphasis on spending these funds to support worthwhile activities. Further activity around postgraduate and early career support was noted as an area for focus in 2017/18.

A summary of the Group's activities since the last AGM was provided. Activities included a networking event at the mid-term conference, an event in Cardiff focussed on the 'In the business in economic geography' project, and a pre-annual conference event on Brexit. The group had supported these events financially, and the mid-term conference event will be repeated in 2018.

An update was provided on the 'In the business of economic geography' project. It was noted that a working paper and journal article would be published late 2017/early 2018 which summarised the key findings – which had been discussed in Cardiff. It is hoped that the papers will inspire debate and discussion which may in turn lead to the agreement of strategies to respond to the trend which in general is a cause for concern.

The winners of the Group's latest prizes was confirmed: for best PhD Chloe Billing, from the University of Birmingham, with Emil Evenhuis from Newcastle as runner up. The UG dissertation prize for 2016 was awarded to Phoebe Kitchen from Durham University.

It was noted that a number of committee vacancies exists, and as detailed in the message sent to the EGRG listserv, nominations and election needed to happen at the AGM. One nomination for Secretary was received (from Al James) and seconded (by Jon Beaverstock) – for Chris Muellerleile. Chris was elected in an uncontested vote. The 'ordinary member' role of Postgraduate Representative attracted two self-nominations – from Dominic Obeng and Nora Lanari. Attendees at the meeting agreed that the nominees should share the role. A discussion ensued about the value of having an early career ordinary member representative. It was agreed that this would be a useful addition. Alexandra Dales (Manchester University) self-nominated for the role and there was unanimous agreement that she should be the inaugural holder of the role.

As part of the AOB discussion the venue of the 2018 AGM was raised. Given that the global Conference on Economic Geography would be held in Cologne in July, and that the RGS Annual Conference moves to Cardiff, it was agreed that to ensure maximum attendance the AGM should be held in Cologne. This mirrors the precedent set when the Global Conference was in Oxford in 2015. The meeting closed at 13:40.

Treasurers Report

EGRG Mid-Year Financial Update

AGM 2017

Balance on 30th Dec 2016: £2,196.65

INCOME (2017)

RGS-IBG Annual Society Grant £400.00

EXPENDITURE TO DATE (2017)

Travel for Amy Horton to RGS-IBG Midterm Conference £46.45

EGRG Postgrad Bursaries for RGS-IBG Midterm Conference £110.00

EGRG Postgrad reception at RGS-IBG Midterm Conference £101.94

EGRG PhD Thesis Prize £150.00

Total **£-408.39**

Balance at 25 August 2017: **£1788.26**
(+ £8.35 in reserve account)

The EGRG is in a strong financial position, though efforts have been made to spend our reserves. The group continues to make savings from previous years with webhosting now managed through the RGS.

So far this year the EGRG provided two postgraduate conference bursaries (totalling £110) for attendance at the EGRG Mid-Term Conference in Cardiff, paid the travel costs for the EGRG PGR rep (Amy Horton) to attend the conference (£46.45) and covered the costs of an EGRG reception (£101.94), in order to increase awareness and membership of the research group. Chloe Billing, winner of the EGRG 2017 PhD prize, was also awarded £150 and a copy of *Global Shift*.

EGRG had agreed to support the attendance of one UK-based PhD or early career researcher to the 5th Global Conference on Economic Geography in July 2018 in Cologne, Germany, via a special EGRG bursary of £250. This amount will cover flights and travel, leaving the recipient with just their conference fee to pay.

It is the view of the Treasurer that the EGRG should continue to support initiatives like this that add value to economic geography in the UK.

Sarah Marie Hall
Treasurer, EGRG

Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG) Treasurer's End of Year (December) Report on Annual Finances 2017

1. The EGRG financial position remains largely consistent with the balance reported in August at the AGM. The group will receive its annual subvention from the RGS (£405) on 31st December. Efforts have been made to spend our reserves.
2. In 2017 the EGRG awarded Chloe Billing (University of Birmingham), winner of the EGRG 2017 PhD prize, £150 and a copy of *Global Shift*.
3. In 2017 the EGRG provided two £55 postgraduate conference bursaries (totalling £110) for attendance at the RGS-IBG Mid-Term Conference in Cardiff. The group also paid the travel costs for the EGRG PGR rep (Amy Horton) to attend the conference (£46.45) and covered the costs of an EGRG reception including refreshments (£101.94), in order to increase awareness and membership of the research group.
4. In 2017 the EGRG awarded its 2017 Undergraduate Dissertation Prize to Holly Campbell (UCL), who will receive copies of *Global Shift*, *The Sage Handbook of Economic Geography*, and a further £150 worth of Sage books.
5. The EGRG also organised a UK economy post-Brexit event directly before the 2017 annual conference, in collaboration with the Political Geography research group. The event made a profit of £402.34 which has been split evenly between the two research groups, with £201.17 deposited into the EGRG account.
6. In 2018 EGRG had agreed to support the attendance of two UK-based individuals (preferably a PhD students and an early career researcher) to the 5th Global Conference on Economic Geography in July 2018 in Cologne, Germany, via a special EGRG bursary of E250/c£220. This amount will cover flights and travel, and the conference organisers have also agreed to a fee waiver.
7. The financial position of the EGRG remains very healthy.