

## MINUTES

### Economic Geography Research Group Annual General Meeting 2017

13:10-14:00, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017: RGS-IBG Annual Conference, London

Venue: Council Room, RGS-IBG main building

Attendees: James Faulconbridge (Chair), Chris Mullerleille, 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 Mullerleille. 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.