

RGS AGM EGRG Minutes 25 July 2018

Present: J Faulconbridge, Emil, Jennifer Johns, Karen Lai, Sarah Hall, Steve Wood, Andrew Jones, Al James, Neil Coe, Adrian Smith, Alex Hughes, Adam Dixon

1. **Apologies:** Sarah M Hall (treasurer) Chris Mullerlele (sec), PGR and ECR reps
2. **Confirmation of minutes** – tabled at meeting and approved
3. **Treasurers report** – attached to minutes, amendment, £400 less because money from RGS was already reported and so doesn't need to be added on as it is in the current update. Budget focused on ECR and postgrad communities. Income increased following profit from Brexit event in advance of last year's RGS
4. Group activity and future plans since last AGM
 - a. Mid term conference (conference or workshop every other year – no conference or workshop run as a result)
 - i. Debate on number of events. Al James queried number of events as used to have two events per year. Problems of recruitment of PGR meant that this is now run at the mid term conference. EGRG events have then be run before the RGS conference which lead to good audiences and strong financial position
 - b. Focus on PGR, elected an ECR rep and new PGR rep (Summer 2017), Dominic Obeng and Nora Lanari.
 - c. EGRG reception and networking event at the Post grad mid term conference, report is on website (15- 20 people attended), successful.
Action Likely to want to carry this on in future years
 - d. Sponsored place at Econ Geography Summer Institute 2018, 2 x places at Cologne (free fee and travel and accommodation subsidy) and second part sponsorship (part conference place)
5. Early career researchers survey
 - a. Alexandra Dales used the jiscmail list and snowballing contacting ECR researchers within 5 years of PhD in the UK. 19 respondent of which 9 from the UK.
 - b. Main findings: what do ECR colleagues need – support from more experienced colleagues re publishing, developing as an economic geographer, how to write, grant applications, developing collaboration. Seen as useful to know the details of these people and acknowledged that the data is incomplete
Action: update information? Use place of publication
Action Does the EGRG want to facilitate a post grad event based on this data? Links to future of economic geography project and next steps
Action: need to think about the pipeline from UG to PGR – what can people do with an econ geog phd, possibility of event for 3rd year geographer, possibility to reach out to econ geographers in geography and business schools through training e.g. ESRC DTP
Suggestion to also link up to the RSA

6. Publication on 'in the business of economic geography' project and next steps
 - a. Paper published in EPA published online Jan 2018 (Exchanges) 5 responses from Ron Martin, Andrew Leyshon, Andrew Cumbers, Trevor Barnes.
 - b. Sense that all responders are concerned about state of UK economic geography from different viewpoints
 - c. Barnes and Christophers text book reflects this by discussing the issue in their new book as a concern about reproduction
 - d. Less clear about what action needed and less clear-cut agreement on proposition for core key agenda within Econ geog.
 - e. Now that have named it, need to take Action (Leyshon) Need to bring UK econ geographers together around common themes at all career stages – less clear about how we do that.
 - f. Leyshon suggests that Strength in Places fund may be an opportunity, part of Industrial Challenge Strategy Fund, (STEM funded on regional development), focus on leading edge firms in struggling regions in relation to productivity problem in the UK post Brexit, econ geographers could and should be getting involved in bids. £50m per bid plus prior scoping bid scheme – possibility for RGS support. Leyshon has discussed with RGS and they would offer space and catering, Ron Martin keen to be involved, could this have EGRG report, who should we be inviting to attend such an event. Would be a way of getting economic geographers together around an issue and also provide economic geography insight etc to other bids (if econ geog doesn't then some other disciplines will)
 - i. Questions – Adrian Smith, is it about getting people together to see if they might apply or is it about getting people together to develop a critique around 'strength in places'. Leyshon thinks both.
 - ii. Alex Hughes – are we going to use this a strategic opportunity to reach out to other disciplines – sense that we should be doing this but probably need to get the critical mass in econ geography together before reaching out to interdisciplinary colleagues (possibly split the event into 2 days to do this)
 - iii. Initiative was very widely supported and a sense that other disciplines will also require economic geography insights
 - iv. **Action agreed that we will take this forward and run an event. Also use time at that event to talk about how we might support ECR event**

7. Prizes

- a. PhD prize: 8 submissions Julie De Los Reyes (Manchester), runner up Liam Keenan (Newcastle), only one person who submitted for the prize is at the conference
 - b. UG dissertation prize: Holly Campbell Thanks to SAGE
8. Election of new committee members
 - a. Chair – nominations were received for Jennifer Johns. First, Steve Wood, Second Andrew Jones Agreed
 - b. Prizes officer - TBC
 - c. Web officer TBC
Thanks to James Faulconbridge for 3 years as chair
 9. AOB – RGS medals competition. Please suggest nominations