

# RGS-IBG Economic Geography Research Group

## 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

5 September 2024, 1300-1400 BST

**Location:** Online meeting

**Attendees:** Allan Watson (EGRG Chair), Julie MacLeavy (EGRG Treasurer), Kean Fan Lim (EGRG Secretary), Jessa Loomis, Mengyao Han, Lotte Thomsen, Liam Keenan, Carlo Inverardi-Ferri, Wenjing Zhang

**Meeting called to order at 13:00**

1. **Apologies:** Sarah Hall; Sarah Marie Hall
2. **Confirmation of minutes** of 2023 AGM were tabled at the meeting and approved.

**New Committee Members Updates:** Allan Watson thanked outgoing Treasurer, Julie MacLeavy, and Secretary, Kean Fan Lim, for their work during their extended terms. The meeting welcomed Jessa Loomis as new Treasurer. Jessa will arrange for a handover meeting with Julie. The meeting also welcomed Liam Keenan as new Secretary. Liam kindly stepped up from his role as Prizes officer and will arrange for a handover meeting with Kean. The meeting agreed that Chen Q, proposed by Allan and Julie, will assume the role as new Prizes Officer. Chen will arrange for a handover meeting with Liam.

Allan Watson then thanked Lotte Thomsen for extending her term as international member by three years, and explained to the meeting he is continuing in his role as Chair for another year to ensure a degree of continuity following the changes in the Treasurer and Secretary roles.

3. **Treasurer's report:** Julie MacLeavy provided an overview of the EGRG's financial position: the EGRG remains in a good and stable financial position with a current balance of £1722.95.

Julie highlighted to the meeting that the RGS is exploring taking ownership of research group accounts. There are specific reasons for this exploration, but our preference is to remain autonomous so that decisions can be made more flexibly regarding our continued support for key activities such as undergraduate and postgraduate dissertation awards, a travel award for a UK-based attendee at the Summer Institute for Economic Geography, and social events at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference.

No further issues pertaining to the budget were raised.

4. **Report on last year's activities:**

*Annual conference, EGRG sessions:* Carlo Inverardi-Ferri reported to the meeting that the EGRG was able to sponsor all sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference. He also reported positive responses to the Public Lecture series. The meeting agreed to continue supporting this initiative.

*Prizes awarded:* Liam Keenan updated the meeting on the dissertation prize winners. Submissions from 2024 went up to 11 from 6 in 2023.

5. **Forthcoming events:** Allan Watson informed the meeting that the next RGS-IBG Annual Conference will be held in Birmingham in 2025. He invited the meeting to offer suggestions on how the EGRG can contribute to this annual meeting because the Conference organiser is keen to work with research groups.
6. **Date of the next meeting** The next meeting will be held in September 2025 online; a specific date will be announced in the summer of 2024.
7. **Any other business:** Allan Watson proposed updating the website and will work with Wendee to explore ways to do so.