

RGS-IBG Social and Cultural Geography Research Group AGM 2010

Thursday 2nd September 2010, 13.10

Royal Geographical Society

Minutes: Harriet Hawkins

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Russell Hitchings and David Crouch.

2. **Chairs report:** Gail Davies

460 members, account around £2250 in credit, new website scgrg.org

Minutes

Matters arising:

Thanks to: Emma Roe - dissertation prize coordination

Jo Norcup- for organising education resources section of website

Russell Hitchings- thanks for putting together RGS sessions

SCGRG co-sponsored 12 sessions it was noted that these whilst rich remained eclectic and it was discussed whether we could in the future be more focused on particular themes. This might give more of a sense of what it is that the research group does uniquely, and hence something that people can identify with and maybe want to be a part of.

Those present thanked the following for their committee work over the last 3 years:

Louise Holt

David Crouch

3. **Treasurers report:** Louise Holt

Research Group financial reporting form

Social and Cultural Geography Research Group

Period 27.8.09-1.9.10

Receipt and payments account

INCOME

RGS-IBG subvention	650	
RGS-IBG grant(s)	350	
Interest	3.42	
Total income	1003.42	

EXPENDITURE

Committee expenses	84.55	lunch meeting at AAG
University of Exeter Art Book	250	
Newcastle Religion Conference (Including RGS funding)	700	see above
Travel subsidy for Greenspaces conference	47.75	

Travel subsidy for Brighton conference	200	
website	341.28	three years hosting and redesign
Total payments	1623.58	
Net surplus/deficit	-620.16	
Opening balance(s) - 27.8.09	2863.1	
Closing balances - 1.9.10	2242.94	

Those present agreed the deficit for the year 2009-2010 was positive, giving the relatively large reserve in the bank. The modest committee expenses were noted, as was the income of £350 match funded RGS grant for the 'Geographies of Belief' conference. It was noted that the balance was healthy but that as a membership organization we had a duty to spend it for the good of the membership, and that spending it responsibly was important.

Louise then resigned after 3 years as treasurer and was thanked for her service.

4. Committee membership changes

Louise Holt stood down as Treasurer Elaine Ho was proposed as new treasurer by Russell and seconded by Gail Davies and after checking no one else in the room wanted to stand. Elaine was thus was duly elected onto the committee

The following committee members are continuing in post:

- Jo Norcup (education co-ordinator) and Harriet Hawkins for one further year
- Gail Davies as Chair and Russell Hitchings as secretary; Chris Bear as Membership secretary, Alex Tan as Postgraduate co-ordinator, Ben Anderson, Emma Roe, Amanda Rogers, Kate Boyer, Shannon Hensley, and Lynn Gunter as committee members for a further two years.
- Those present thanked and welcomed these new members to the committee.

Others in the room were encouraged to talk to Gail later if they wished to stand on the committee. Owain Jones was later added to the committee.

- Action: Louise to hand over relevant information to Elaine Ho

5. Undergraduate dissertation prize:

Emma Roe reported on the process of submission to the dedicated email address and the form of the knockout competition that was decided.

The final two dissertations are going to be read by Gail Davies, Emma Roe, Ben Anderson and Harriet Hawkins and the winner agreed.

A discussion was had as to the variable quality of the dissertations and the potential issues about the implication of setting standards and being too prescriptive. A broader discussion was held about what it was that the prize wanted to celebrate high quality, innovative research, which was not so well communicated, or a competent, well written but research that is more pedestrian that

was well written and technically correct. In the light of this discussion, we decided to keep the graduate prize proposed last year (point 16 in minutes last year) on hold for a year in order to learn from these points.

6. Research group activities: Report 2009-2010

RGS/IBG August 30th to 2nd September

SCGRG sponsor and co-sponsor 12 events at the 2010 RGS-IBG Annual Conference.

- Absence: Materiality, embodiment, resistance (2 sessions)
- Children, young people and 'sustainability' (2 sessions)
- Citizens-in-becoming? New spaces of parenting, early childhood and welfare (2 sessions)
- Geography and the Future (3 sessions) (Sole Sponsor)
- Geography and Twentieth Century British Poetry (2 sessions and a reading session) (Sole Sponsor)
- Getting away from it all – Embodied practices and engagements with the 'natural' (2 sessions)
- Innovative Spaces of Learning (2 sessions)
- Lifestyle Mobilities and Corporealities: Intersections and Issues (1 session)
- 'Places without a place': The geographies of ships (2 sessions)
- Social and Cultural Geographies of the Coasts (2 sessions)
- Travelling faith: exploring the intersections of religion and migration (2 sessions)
- Youth geographies of in/civility (1 session)

Other sponsored events for 2010 include:

- Geographies of Belief Conference
- Travel subsidies for Greenspaces Conference

Future Events

RGS-IBG 2011:

We continued the discussion about potentially consolidated SCRG sessions around a set of themes or agenda related to the conferences theme: 'Geographical Imagination' as this had currency for the research group. The SCGRG has been delighted to sponsor a wide variety of sessions over the last few years, but our interpretation of the quota system for RGS conference sessions has resulted in a large and diffuse number of co-sponsored sessions. This is entirely appropriate given the wide remit of the group, but it was agreed the SCGRG could also explicitly look to solicit high profile, distinctive SCGRG sessions in the call for sessions for 2011. This is an extension of the previous year's discussion on a similar theme.

Divya-Tolia Kelly proposed a session with Mike Crang on 'Revisiting Orientalism',

New Empirics:

Our own conference organized for 20th and 21st January, we will need to think about how to keep ideas narrow so that the conference does not collapse under its own dissipated weight.

From a lengthy discussion about proposed activities and the CFP emerged a series of key words, including: excess, abundance, translation and exchange, which are going to be worked through a new proposal and circulated around the committee.

Action: The conference planning team (Chris Bear, Amanda Rogers, Alex Tan and Harriet Hawkins) will put together the next iteration of the proposal and circulate amongst the committee

Newly funded activities:

The meeting reviewed the proposal for £250 for travel bursaries for 'Irigaray and Space' workshop proposed by Sarah Cant and Rachel Colls, it was agreed the money should be awarded. This prompted a longer discussion around what the research group money is used for, travel bursaries are good but need to try to attract other broader ideas. Gail Davies suggested we should, as a committee, be trying to pick up ideas at an earlier stage and develop greater research group involvement before they get to the point of only applying for travel bursaries

7. Annual meeting 2012:

The group had been asked to discuss potential changes or date and or venue of the RGS-IBG Annual General Meeting 2012 because of the Olympics.

Dates in Christmas or April were discussed, and alternative places e.g. Glasgow, Brighton,

Movement of AAG for that year was noted- AAG moving from Easter slot to end of February slot, potentially freeing up that time of year

8. REF panel nominations

It was decided not to hold this as an open discussion but that people could email Gail if they had any suggestions

9. Future Dates:

- Research Groups Sub-Committee meeting – 5th October 2009
- Deadline for Research Group Grants – 31st October 2010 (application to be submitted for the New Empirics conference)
- New Empirics Conference – 20-21st January
- Annual report – final submission date 31st January 2011
- Deadline for session and abstract submissions to the RGS-IBG for organised sessions Annual Conference 2010 – 22nd February 2010
- Deadline for nominations for RGS-IBG Medals and Awards – 28th February 2010

It was discussed that the research group might want to think about medals and awards.

10. Any other business

11. Next meeting, RGS-IBG, London August 2011