

2021 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP MINUTES Feb 26, 2022

1. CALLING MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:50pm

The 2021 Business Meeting Minutes were approved.

2022 Preconference stats:

The 2022 preconference was virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic on Friday, February 18. We had a total of 47 attendees. This is an increase of 20 attendees over last year. Because the virtual platform was provided by the AAG without cost, the regular \$20 fee for faculty members at the Preconference was waved. As a result, we had \$0 income for the Preconference and \$0 for expenses. We had a total of 27 papers (9 sessions) & 0 posters, 1 Plenary on “Building Career Momentum” (hosted by Ken Foote and Kara Dempsey) and 2 “meet the journal editor” sessions, hosted by Reece Jones (Geopolitics) and Kevin Grove (Political Geography).

Updates from the AAG:

Main conference had 4,776 attendees and 1,067 sessions. Oscar Larson stated that attendance and sessions are ½ of last AAG hosted in NYC. The AAG launched a new, more interactive website and described the new JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) initiative:
<https://www.aag.org/jedi/>

Reminder on deadlines (in place for 2023):

Non-student awards: Jan 15

Student awards: (travel Dec. 31 all others Jan. 31, including undergraduate award)

Many thanks to our outgoing board members:

Faculty: Sara Salazar Hughes

Kyle Evered

Student: Lauren Fritzsche

Changes in Committee Membership:

Many thanks those rotating off:

-Erinn Nicley, Ted Holland, Eeva-Kaisa Prokkola, Sara Koopman

Newest Committee Members:

Beth Nelson (Student Travel Award)

Galen Murton (Graduate Student Paper Award)

Kalyn Rossiter (Student Travel Award)

Mia Bennett (Graduate Student Paper Award)

Kate Coddington (Murphy Dissertation Enhancement Award)

Those interested in joining these boards were encouraged to contact Kara or Meredith

2. VOTING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY FOR BOARD POSITIONS.

There were 87 individual votes cast. We welcome our incoming board members:

Election Results:

PGSG Governing Board

Faculty Board:

Kate Coddington University at Albany, State University of New York (2022-2024)

Andrew Curley University of Arizona(2022-2024)

Student:

Jonghee Lee-Caldararo (University of Kentucky) (2022-2023)

3. BUDGET UPDATE

The current PGSG budget is \$6206.08. This number was calculated prior to the distribution of PGSG student awards (totaling \$1250 this year), which will reduce the post-AAG budget to \$4956.08. Current reserves are higher than is typical for the PGSG. The increase is primarily due to reduced specialty group expenditures due to virtual AAG conferences since 2020 (lack of travel awards and awards banquet spending). The PGSG budget also benefitted from an unanticipated uptick in membership over the past year (718 paid members as of Feb. 26, 2022).

Higher reserves are likely wise given the increased expenses we anticipate over the next several years. First, the board would like to fund a larger number of student travel awards in 2023 to support the anticipated return to an in-person PGSG preconference and AAG conference. Second, it is increasingly difficult to secure zero-cost rooms for the preconference. These costs (and whether or not they can be offset by preconference faculty attendance fees) are difficult to anticipate. To avoid a situation in which the PGSG has to cut student awards to fund preconference room charges, it is important to maintain a healthy reserve.

PGSG spending in the past year was exclusively used for student awards. No money was spent on conference expenses.

4. AWARDS

Student Awards

Graduate Ph.D. Level Paper-- ALLEN XIAO, for his paper “‘The Belt and Road Initiative’ and Chinese Overseas Diplomatic Authorities: Discursive representations and the geopolitical outreach in Africa”

Masters Level Paper—None awarded

Undergraduate Paper—None awarded

Alexander B. Murphy Dissertation Enhancement Award — XIAOFENG

LIU (University of Hong Kong) "Sustainable development with Chinese characteristics? The politics of the Green Belt and Road Initiative"

Non-Student Awards

Stanley Brunn Young Scholar Award - JULIE KLINGER (University of Delaware)

Faculty Website: <https://sites.udel.edu/ceoe-klinger/>

Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award - ORHON MYADAR (University of Arizona) *Mobility and Displacement: Nomadism, Identity and Postcolonial Narratives in Mongolia* (2021) Routledge.

Faculty Website: <https://geography.arizona.edu/people/orhon-myadar>

Virginie Mamadouh Outstanding Research Award - THALER, GREGORY M., CECILIA VIANA, AND FABIANO TONI. "From Frontier Governance to Governance Frontier: The Political Geography of Brazil's Amazon Transition." *World Development* 114 (2019): 59–72.

Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award - EVAN CENTANNI (Political Geography Now)

Website: <https://www.polgeonow.com/>

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION

2023 Preconference: Scheduled for in-person University of Colorado-Boulder March 22, 2023 (Institute for Behavioral Sciences building).

Discussion of changes to awards:

Kara and Meredith shared a proposal to include diversity (or the option to explain how one's application enhances diversity or one's research supports diversity) as an option in the evaluation criteria for the student travel grants.

Kara and Meredith also shared a proposal to attach an annual travel grant award to the Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award for attendance/participation in the Preconference. The goal of this proposal is to highlight and increase public engagement among PGSG members. In the spirit of Richard Morrill's research on migration, race, social stratification and inequality, the proposal is to attach a travel award for the recipient to attend/participate in the PGSG Preconference. The initial proposal included a \$2 increase in annual faculty fees (total of \$12) to fund this award. Discussion regarding the proposal resulted in widespread support for the grant, but most members in attendance supported funding the award through the creation of a third payment option/donation tier for PGSG members.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The discussion regarding increasing diversity in the Preconference continued into an “open floor” discussion. The Governing Board will contact Michelle Ledoux to inquire about options for funding the Morill award via a third payment tier/donation option.

Sara Salazar Hughes, a member of the undergraduate student paper award committee shared that there have been few undergraduate applicants in recent years. Attendees discussed several possible reasons for this, including the timing of the application cycle and shifts in course assignments from papers to other projects. Attendees discussed several possible options for increasing the number of applicants, including the possibility of including a second category for ‘creative projects’ (e.g., podcasts, storymaps). The conversation was cut short due to time, but PGSG may want to revisit it at next year’s business meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57pm