

2019 Political Geography Specialty Group Minutes April 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 11:49 am,

The 2018 Business Meeting Minutes were approved and are available at

<http://www.politicalgeography.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/PGSG-2018-bus-mtg-minutes.pdf>

2019 Preconference stats:

The 2019 preconference was held at the Institute for Eurasian Studies at the George Washington University. 78 people registered for the event. We had \$840 income and \$725 of expenses including \$625 food; \$100 restaurant appetizers. We were not charged for rooms this year. We had a total of 38 papers & 7 posters, which represented a big increase in posters since last year.

Reminder on deadlines (in place for this year):

all non-student awards Jan. 15

student awards: travel Dec. 31

all others Jan. 31, including undergraduate award

Many thanks to our outgoing board members:

Mary Mostafanezhad (University of Hawaii)

Kevin Grove (Florida International University)

Borjana Lubura (University of Hawai'i)– Student Rep.

Changes in committee memberships:

Student Travel Awards Committee

Kara Dempsey – off

Colin Flint – off

Erinn Nicley will – become chair

Austin Kocher – new member

Graduate Student Paper Award Committee

Adam Moore – off

Ted Holland – become chair

Those interested in joining these boards were encouraged to contact Afton.

2. Voting was held for board positions Candidates for board positions

President 2019-2021:

Afton Clarke-Sather

Secretary/Treasurer/Vice President 2019-2021:

Kara Dempsey

faculty board member 2019-2021 (2 positions):

Anna Casaglia University of Trento

Galen Murton, James Madison University

graduate student rep. candidates 2019-2020 (1 position):

Sam Nielsen, University of South Carolina

Rupak Shrestha, University of Colorado Boulder

3. Budget update

The post conference budget balance was \$1,264.28, which was approximately \$700 lower than last year. Our annual goal is to end the year with approximately \$1000 in reserves. Our primary budget spending is on student awards, this year \$4,275 was spent on student awards and \$389.93 was spend on non-student award spending, excluding conference expenses.

4. Award winners

STUDENTS

2019 BA Student Paper Award

none awarded

2019 PhD Student Paper Award

Lewis J. Dowle University of St. Andrews

Towards a (co)relational border? Order, care and chaos at Nordic borders

2019 Alexander B. Murphy Dissertation Enhancement Award

Emily Kaufman, University of Kentucky

Bio-Spatial Profiling and Black Children's Everyday Life

Sanan Moradi, University of Oregon

Of Hashtags and Streets: Kurdish Movement and the Making of Territory in the ISIS Era

NON-STUDENTS

(1) Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award:

James A. Tyner, Kent State University

The Politics of Lists: Bureaucracy and Genocide under the Khmer Rouge

<https://wvupressonline.com/node/756>

2019, University of West Virginia Press

This book contributes to advancing the science and art of geography by offering an important new perspective on the bureaucratic roots of genocide. It focuses on the Khmer Rouge and its implications for the broader study of life, death, and power. *The Politics of Lists* analyzes thousands of newly available Cambodian documents both as sources of information and as objects worthy of study in and of themselves. How, Tyner asks, is recordkeeping implicated in the creation of political authority? What is the relationship between violence and bureaucracy? How can documents, as an anonymous technology capable of conveying great force, be understood in relation to newer technologies like drones? What does data create, and what does it destroy? Through a theoretically informed, empirically grounded study of the Khmer Rouge security apparatus, Tyner shows that lists and telegrams have often proved as deadly as bullet and bombs.

(2) Virginie Mamadouh Outstanding Research Award:

Oliver Belcher, Durham University.

2018. Anatomy of a Village Razing: Counterinsurgency, Violence, and Securing the Intimate in Afghanistan. *Political Geography* 62: 94-105.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0962629816302554>

This article examines a wide spectrum of biopolitical initiatives involved in the 2010-2011 counterinsurgency operations, and show how violence became a protracted condition for displaced villagers as durable lines of force were inscribed into the communal relations and material arrangements of the built environment(s) in Kandahar. It focuses on “securing the intimate”; namely, the attempts by U.S. forces to harness Afghan households as sites of indirect rule. In this anatomy of a village razing, two specific problems with reconstruction are analyzed: (1) the bid to establish a new political order by bringing the villagers closer to local governance structures through the dubious process of U.S. military compensation schemes; and (2) how the rebuilt structures in deviated from the “local style” with devastating effect, especially for women in the village.

(3) Stanley D. Brunn Young Scholar Award:

Andrew Linke, University of Utah

Dr. Linke is among the leading scholars of the spatial analysis of political violence. His work has been global in scope, though contextually often situated in East Africa, particularly Kenya. Dr Linke has contributed tremendously to our understandings of the climate-conflict nexus, providing an often-nuanced view of a field that is, to the general public, seemingly alarmist. For example, his recent work on drought in Kenya illustrated the potentially mitigating impact of local resource management regimes play in drought as a driver of violence. His work has transcended scales and data sources, including survey work in East Africa, and continental studies of violence based on ACLED (the Armed Conflict Location and Event Database), which he was involved in the creation of. Dr. Linke’s published work has been prodigious. He has published 20 peer-reviewed articles (listed on his most recent CV), including first authored publications in high profile outlets including *The Annals of the AAG*, *Political Geography*, and *Global Environmental Change*. He has also been a coauthor on publications in both the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Nature Climate Change*. These latter publications speak to the scientific community broadly, exemplify another element of Dr. Linke’s work. Dr. Linke’s scholarship speaks outside of the subfield of political geography (and indeed outside of Geography) to communicate with scholars in Political Science, Peace Studies, and Global Environmental Change studies. Dr. Linke’s work has made sure that Political Geography as a perspective on the world continues to have a seat and the academic table alongside these more widely known disciplines in shaping public opinion. Dr Linke’s work has also been recognized through the global academic community, most notably through his work with the Peace Research Institute Oslo. Yet as he works in the broader academic and global contexts, he has also remained grounded in Political Geography, as indicated by his contribution as a plenary speaker at the PGSG preconference in 2017 and two years of service on the PGSG board. Dr. Linke has become the leading emerging voice of quantitative political geography, and is fully deserving of the Brunn award.

(4) Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award:

Jeremy Slack, The University of Texas at El Paso

Jeremy is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Geography at The University of Texas at El Paso. Utilizing his expertise on border issues and cross-border immigration, he runs the Immigration and Border Communities Research Experience for Undergraduates, a National Science Foundation program engaging undergraduates in Summer

2019 in research on, but also collaboration with and outreach to border communities on issues of civil rights and contemporary immigration. He has also had a high profile in the press with him and his work appearing on/in CNN, PBS, CBS, Al Jazeera, Univision, The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and the Associated Press. He has also appeared as an expert witness in many asylum court cases.

5. Election results

President 2019-2021:

Afton Clarke-Sather

Secretary/Treasurer/Vice President 2019-2021:

Kara Dempsey

faculty board 2019-2021 (2 positions):

Anna Casaglia University of Trento

Galen Murton, James Madison University

graduate student rep. candidates 2019-2020 (1 position):

Sam Nielsen—Student Rep.

6. General discussion

President Emeritus Koch proposed the following changes to the PGSG bylaws related to elimination of presidential election and renaming for Secretary/Treasurer as Vice President.

“1) The Executive Board is made up of a President, Vice President, four faculty members, the President Emeritus, and one student member. Positions are elected by the general membership of the specialty group, though it is expected that the vice president automatically transitions to the president role unless (a) the Vice President opts out, or (b) a majority of board members agree by January 15 that a vote should be held that year. “

“The Vice President is nominated by the incoming President and elected by the membership at the Business Meeting. The Vice President serves a two-year term. The Vice President’s duties are to: (a) maintain the PGSG website; (b) assist with organizing the annual preconference; (c) take notes at the annual PGSG Business Meeting; (d) coordinate the disbursement of funds for the preconference and awards with the AAG office; (e) any other business as necessary.”

Both changes were approved by voice vote.

Report from Specialty Group Chairs’ meeting yesterday

This year’s annual meeting has approximately 8,500 attendees. Next year, sessions will be reduced to 75 minutes on a one-year trial basis, this will allow for fewer concurrent sessions and ending earlier in the day.

AAG council approved a set of best practices for graduate students that will soon be available to departments.

There have been two petitions related to Climate change that were brought to council this year, and a task force has been formed to work on reducing the climate impact of the AAG.

This year AAG had a new event conduct policy intended to create a harassment-free AAG. A new statement is available, and this year this includes 1. An on site victim advocate who can be contacted by contacting any AAG employee, and 2 an offsite ombudsmen, as well as a process for hearing complaint so harassment and administering sactions.

AAG will be developing a developing rapid response statement system to comment on urgent matters of public concern. Those interested in being involved in this system may volunteer with either by responding to a forthcoming call, or contacting outgoing president Derick Alderman. Michelle Kinzer is now also available for congressional input and public policy.

2020 Preconference:

The 2020 preconference will be held at the institute of Behavioral Sciences UC Boulder on April 5, 2020. This event falls on a Sunday, which is not ideal, but the board has concluded is the best of available options.

Discussion of changes to awards:

Undergraduate Paper Awards

This year we received no nominations for the undergraduate student paper award. A discussion was held to consider ways we may increase participation in this award. Discussion included the possibility of moving the date of the award, or opening the awards up to non-paper forms of scholarly presentation. The membership voted to support the board to work with the undergraduate paper committee to explore ways to allow alternate forms of scholarship, such as podcasts or posters, to be submitted. The board and undergraduate paper committee will come up with an approach to try on a trial basis next year and will report back to the membership.

Dissertation Enhancement Award.

Discussion was held concerning the following requirement of the Dissertation Enhancement Award.

“4 A proposal submitted for the PGSG DEA award may not be submitted to any other AAG Specialty Group for a dissertation enhancement award.” After discussion of whether such a restriction is practicable and desirable, the decision was made by consensus to eliminate this requirement.

Graduate Student Paper award.

The board received the following feedback concerning the current 15,000 word limit from the graduate student paper award committee, and brought this concern to the membership:

“We’ve noticed in the past two years that students struggle with this requirement to submit what is, essentially, a half length article, leading to promising papers that are lacking in either empirics or theoretical framing to meet this artificial limit. In place of this we suggest that guidelines be changed to ask students to submit papers that conform to the word count and format requirements of a specific journal--like, say, Political Geography or Annals--as this is the ultimate goal for most of those participating in this paper contest.”

After discussion, it was decided that the board will work with the committee to set a new guideline based on a word count similar to submission guidelines to a journal article. An 8000 word limit was proposed, but the final limit for next year will be decided by the board and graduate student paper committee.

President Madsen proposed a changed to allow self-nominations for Morrill outreach award, no objections were raised.

7. Other business

-Meredith DeBoom presented to the membership about the benefits of programs run by the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (facultydiversity.org).

Adjourned at 11:54