

2021 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP MINUTES APRIL 10, 2021

1. CALLING MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:17pm

The 2019 Business Meeting Minutes were approved (the 2020 Business Meeting was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic).

2021 Preconference stats:

The 2021 preconference was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic on Wednesday, January 6 and Thursday, January 7, 2021. 20 papers presented with a total of 27 attendees. 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 a \$ 0 income for the Preconference and \$0 for expenses. We had a total of 20 papers & 0 posters, and 2 “meet the journal editor” sessions, hosted by Reece Jones (Geopolitics) and Kevin Grove (Political Geography). For the main AAG conference, there were 35 PGSG sessions.

Reminder on deadlines (in place for this year):

Non-student awards: Minghi and Mamadouh non-student awards will be due December 1, 2021; Brunn Junior Scholar Award and Morrill Public Outreach are due January 15, 2022.

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

Many thanks to our outgoing board members:

Rupak Shrestha (University of Colorado Bolder)

Galen Murton (James Madison University)

Ali Hamdan (George Washington University) – Student Rep.

Kenneth Madsen (Ohio State University) – Emeritus PSGG President

Changes in Committee Membership: No changes in committee memberships.

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

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

President 2021-2023: (replacing Afton Clarke-Sather) Kara E. Dempsey

Vice President 2021-2023: (replacing Kara E. Dempsey) Meredith DeBoom

Faculty Board:

Kim Thomas (2021-2023)

Andrew Grant (2021-2023)

Student Rep Lauren Fritsche (2021-2022)

3. BUDGET UPDATE

Due to the cancelation of the 2020 AAG & Preconference, our budget numbers reflect a decrease in AAG enrollment fees. Our post virtual conference budget balance was 2,947.00; however, if travel awards would have been funded by the AAG the budget was expected to be \$1,147, which *would have been* \$817 lower than 2018 and 117 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, dissertation award being the “largest” ticket item. \$0 were spent on conference expenses.

We also received \$125.00 in donations from active PGSG members.

4. AWARDS

As a result of the canceled 2020 Business Meeting, Afton Clark-Sather announced the previous years (2020) award winners before announcing the 2021 award winners.

2020 AWARDS

STUDENT AWARDS

Political Geography Undergraduate Student Paper Award

Sara Kaminsk James Madison University - "A Historical and Cartographic Association between the British Colonization of Burma and the Rohingya Crisis in the Modern Day Myanmar"

Graduate Student Paper Award

Ph.D. Level

Hilary Faxon, Cornell University "Performing Property After Authoritarian Rule"

Jonghee Lee-Caldararo, University of Kentucky "Micropolitics of sleepless in Seoul: Understanding South Korean young adults' nighttime practices at 24-hour-café through Foucault's conceptualization of governmentality"

Masters Level-No winner this year

Alexander Murphy Dissertation Enhancement Award

Jenny McGibbon The Ohio State University The Anti-trafficking Movement and the Impact of SESTA/FOSTA on the U.S. Sex Industry.

NON-STUDENT AWARDS

Stanley Brunn Young Scholar Award

Andrew Curley University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

From the nomination letter:

"Andrew, though a junior scholar, is a leader in the theorization of environmental questions through the lens of Indigenous sovereignty, and I expect him to have an outsized impact on the discipline through contributions to Indigenous geographies, development geographies, and resource geographies. Sovereignty and territory are at the heart of political geography, and yet little of our work has really grappled with what sovereignty means to Indigenous scholars. This is a tremendous weakness, and one that Andrew has taken up with insight, empirical work, and compelling theoretical arguments."

Faculty Website <http://wahgraphy.web.unc.edu>

Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award

Lindsay Naylor, University of Delaware, *Fair Trade Rebels Coffee Production and Struggles for Autonomy in Chiapas*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2019.

From the Nomination Letter:

"This book provides an empirically grounded analysis of the diverse economic and agricultural practices of indigenous coffee producers in resistance as they play out in self-declared autonomous communities in highland Chiapas; such practices are enacted as a struggle for dignified livelihoods. *Fair Trade Rebels* draws on stories and experiences coming from the highlands based in interaction with the fair trade certified marketplace and state violence. In five substantive chapters, this book covers the racialized and historical underpinnings of coffee production and rebel autonomy in the highlands of Chiapas, deconstructs development and common binaries associated with fair trade certification, considers the possibilities of being in common, and evaluates actually existing food sovereignty and diverse economic exchanges."

The University of Minnesota Press has generously made the first chapter of this book available. It can be found here: manifold.umn.edu/projects/fair-trade-rebels

Virginie Mamadouh Outstanding Research Award

Kate Coddington University at Albany, State University of New York "The slow violence of life without cash: borders, state restrictions, and exclusion in the U.K. and Australia." *Geographical Review*. 109 (4): 527-543.

The Geographical Review has generously opened access to this article in celebration of this award. It can be found here: www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1111/gere.12332

Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award

Austin Kocher, Transactional Research Access Clearinghouse, Syracuse University

From the nomination letter

Dr. Austin Kocher is currently a faculty fellow at the Transactional Research Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University. He graduated from the Ohio State University in 2017 with a PhD in Geography. Trained as a legal and political geographer, his research focuses on the intersection of law, space, and immigration. While attending the Ohio State, Austin co-founded the Central Ohio Worker Center (COWC), an NGO which advocates with and for workers and immigrants in Central Ohio, combating wage theft, defending immigrants at risk of deportation, and educating workers to the benefits of collective action. Austin worked with the COWC for five years, and in his own words "We created the COWC to fill the heartbreaking lack of advocacy and organizing with undocumented immigrants and un-unionized workers living in Columbus. As a team, we worked hard to stop deportations, return stolen wages to workers, and build a viable organization." [...] Austin's current work at TRAC is published in numerous major news outlets (such as the WSJ, NYT, the Hill, and CBS News), educating the public on the reality of immigration patterns, the asylum process, and deportation. In addition to a robust scholarly publication record, Austin frequently publishes articles and op-eds for non-academic outlets on a number of topics, from immigration to non-violence in the era of Trump. Faculty Website: [Austin Kocher | Newhouse School | Syracuse University](#)

2021 AWARDS

STUDENTS

2021 BA Student Paper Award

Aubrey Cunningham James Madison University

"The Sino-Indian Border Dispute: A Case of Cartographic Ambiguity and Empire Expansion in the Western Himalayas"

Comments from award committee on this paper: Theoretical framework: excellent, good writing style, well-structured. We found that Cunningham's paper to be really well written, with a clear structure and for being the most coherent. It was the clearest and well-done paper, and stood out compared to the other two and it is the clear winner. This paper was the most developed,

sophisticated and well-written – making it enjoyable to read. The argument was well structured and the maps were used as tools for asserting territorial control and sovereignty.

2021 MA/MS Student Paper Award

Grace Chun, University of Hawai'i.

"The celebrity humanitarian tourist: migrant solidarity and the popular geopolitics of the film Human Flow by Ai Weiwei."

The paper focused on: "In the film Human Flow, Ai Weiwei embarks on a celebritized form of tourism as his status and reputation rendered ample financial support to travel to twenty-three countries over the course of the year to film the movement of people all around the world.

Instead, these discourses perpetuate a popular humanitarian gaze that depoliticize those on the move, overshadowing the structures that continue to displace people from their homes."

2021 PhD Student Paper Award

none awarded

Alexander B. Murphy Dissertation Enhancement Award

Lauren Fritzsche

Arizona of University

Travel Funds: 8 awarded students, but – no funds distributed as the conference was virtual

NON STUDENTS

Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award

Mia Bennett, University of Hong Kong moving to University of Washington

As a political geographer with geospatial skills, she is interested in transportation infrastructure and natural resource development in northern frontiers, namely the Arctic, Russian Far East, and along the more remote corridors of China's Belt and Road Initiative. In these areas, by combining fieldwork and remote sensing, she looks at how local and Indigenous actors leverage international geopolitics to direct development into their regions and with what consequences for livelihoods and landscapes. Bennett received a PhD in Geography from UCLA, where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. She also participated in the NSF Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide program at the University of Vienna. Prior to that, she obtained an MPhil in Polar Studies from the University of Cambridge's Scott Polar Research Institute with the support of a Gates Scholarship. She has published extensively in both peer-reviewed journals and popular publications and edits a long-running blog on the Arctic at cryopolitics.com.

Stanley Brunn Young Scholar Award

Danielle Purifoy, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

"My current research traces the roots of contemporary environmental conditions in the U.S.

South, specifically in black towns dating back to the post-Bellum era. I've also written about the

legal dimensions of environmental justice and equity in food systems. I am the former Race and Place Editor editor at [Scalawag](#), a magazine devoted to Southern politics and culture, and the current Board Chair of the [North Carolina Environmental Justice Network](#). “

Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award

Sara Smith

Intimate Geopolitics: Love, Territory, and the Future on India's Northern Threshold (March 2020) by Sara Smith Rutgers University Press

Intimate Geopolitics begins with a love story set in the Himalayan region of Ladakh, in India's Jammu and Kashmir State, but this is also a story about territory, and the ways that love, marriage, and young people are caught up in contemporary global processes. In Ladakh, children grow up to adopt a religious identity in part to be counted in the census, and to vote in elections. Religion, population, and voting blocs are implicitly tied to territorial sovereignty and marriage across religious boundaries becomes a geopolitical problem in an area that seeks to define insiders and outsiders in relation to borders and national identity. This book populates territory, a conventionally abstract rendering of space, with the stories of those who live through territorial struggle at marriage and birth ceremonies, in the kitchen and in the bazaar, in heartbreak and in joy. *Intimate Geopolitics* argues for the incorporation of the role of time—temporality—into our understanding of territory

Virginie Mamadouh Outstanding Research Award

Jackman, A., Squire, R., Bruun, J., and Thornton, P. 2020. Unearthing feminist territories and terrains. *Political Geography* 80: 102180

The constructs of ‘territory’ and ‘terrain’ are the subject of increasing scrutiny within political geography. While momentum builds in their interrogation as both diverse and lively practices, and complex political technologies, this article takes pause. Drawing on a rich and diverse range of feminist scholarship, it seeks to reflect upon existing trajectories and provide provocation for further accounting. Inspired throughout by, and seeking to bring to bear, a feminist perspective on territory and terrain, this article follows a tripartite structure. First, it critically explores the bodies of knowledge historically underpinning the concepts of territory and terrain. Developing a call for a feminist historiography of territory and terrain, we reflect upon both the gendered evolution of the concepts, and their ongoing reproduction in conceptual debates. Second, it seeks to both highlight and diversify embodied accounts and accountings of these concepts. Here, thinking with and beyond the body, we turn to the non-human and spiritual to explore territory and terrain in expanded and extended ways. Lastly, we examine bodies of expertise, reflecting on academic territories and terrains, and highlighting potential concepts and methodologies seeking to (re-)sculpt and (re-)articulate understandings of territory and terrain. The paper, whilst not all-encompassing, serves as an important provocation that seeks more equitable accounts of political geography's messy, muddy, and lively territories and terrains.

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Reminder that President Emeritus Koch's proposed changes to the PGSG bylaws related to elimination of presidential election and renaming for Secretary/Treasurer as Vice President were approved.

"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."

Report from Specialty Group Chairs' meeting

Annual attendance at the virtual/hybrid Conference in Seattle was lower than previous years (e.g., 8,500 attendees in 2019). There may be Covid matching funds available from the AAG to help increase student travel and research.

2021 Preconference: We have arranged in-person conference rooms for the 2021 preconference will be held at a university in downtown Manhattan on Thursday, February 24, 2021. We intend to hold the meeting in person; however, we are actively monitoring Covid-19 developments and CDC recommendations.

Discussion of changes to awards:

A question was raised regarding if Virginie Mamadouh Outstanding Research Award should eliminate self-nominations for the award due to the increasing number of nominations. After discussion of whether such a restriction is practicable and desirable (e.g., be as inclusive to early career faculty), the decision was made by consensus to not eliminate self-nominations.

A question was raised regarding if the Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award should be broadened to be published within the last 2 years, instead of the current requirement of publication in the previous year. The decision was made by consensus to keep the award limited to one year - the copyright year.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Items from the floor- President Emeritus Kenneth Madsen asked PGSG members to assist him in filling in missing information from pre-2014 PGSG meetings. He requested that individuals with information email him directly.

An announcement was made that Anssi Passi, University of Oulu, would receive the Vega Award for his work. In its explanatory memorandum, the society emphasizes the importance of Paasi's research for the critical renewal and expansion of political geography.

An announcement was made that Reece Jones, University of Hawai'i Manoa, would receive the Guggenheim Award to continue his research in the areas of geopolitics and borders. "Jones plans to use the fellowship to complete research for a new book, *Nobody is Protected: How the Border Patrol Became the Most Dangerous Police Force in the United States*, which is set for publication in 2022."

Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm