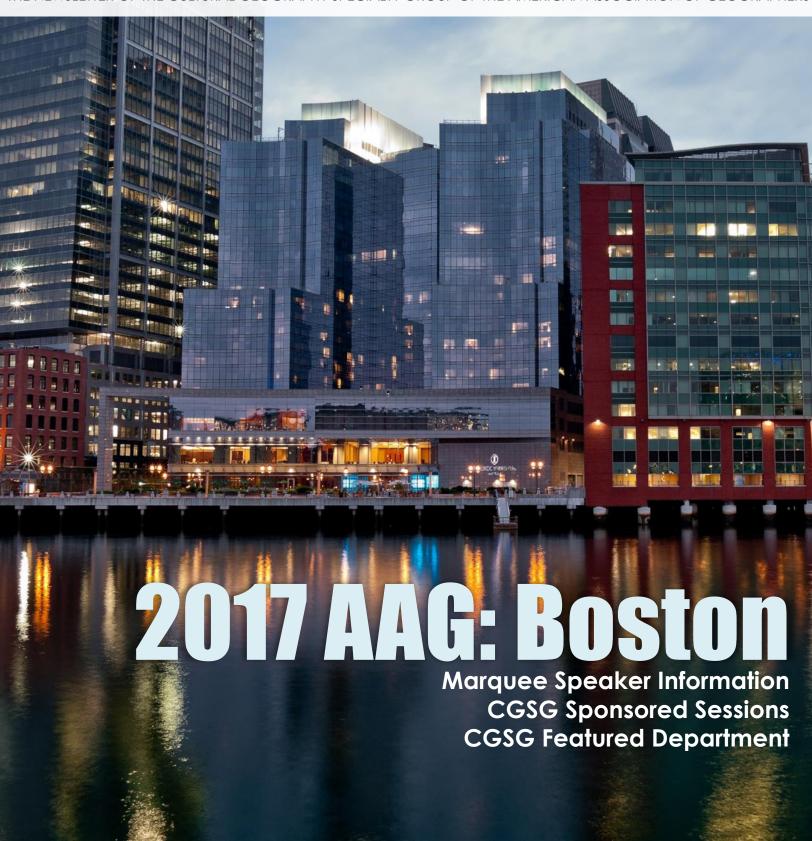
Mace and Culture

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS



Letter from the Chair



Dear CGSG Members,

I am writing this column with very mixed feelings as I am wrapping up my role as chair of this wonderful group. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the group's chair, to work with our exceptional board members, and to interact with all of you. I am sad to be leaving my post but I am convinced that the new chair will take us in a new and exciting direction. Change is good and new ideas are crucial for the future of our specialty. We have been one of the biggest AAG's specialty groups with almost 900 members and I hope we can only continue growing.

The annual meeting is approaching in a few days and we will soon meet in Boston. There are many interesting sessions that the CGSG sponsors and I invite you to review the list of CGSG sponsored sessions that Nick Crane put together for us in this newsletter, to mark those session that are of interest to you, and to attend as many talks and events as possible. I highly encourage you to attend our Specialty Group's Marquee Address by Anne Whiston Spirn: "Restoring Nature, Rebuilding Community: The West Philadelphia Landscape Project, 30 years of Action Research". This session is scheduled for Friday, April 7th from 3:20-5:00 pm in Room 111, Hynes, Plaza Level. I hope to see you there!

As per our tradition, our outstanding graduate student representatives Hannah Carilyn Gunderman and Jordan Brasher are putting together a breakfast event which I sincerely invite you to attend. This year the annual CGSG Breakfast will be held at the Dunkin' Donuts at the Prudential Tower, 800 Boylston St (right near the Marriott!) from 7:30am-9:30am on Thursday, April 6th. Please come for free coffee, donuts, and assorted breakfast items, and meet other members of the CGSG!

This year, the **board decided to introduce a new section to the newsletter**. Going forward the newsletter will feature departments that are committed to promoting Cultural Geography on their campuses, to their students, and to the broader community. There are many departments to choose from and this year we asked the **Global Studies and Human Geography Department at Middle Tennessee State** to provide us with a piece that features their great work in the area of human and cultural geography.

I am also happy to highlight that our board member Matt Cook from Eastern Michigan University is sharing his thoughts on the current geographic job market in a piece called "Abandon All Hope, Ye Who Enter Here?": Thoughts on the Current Geographic Job Market' which we hope will be helpful to our graduate student members who are preparing to enter the job market in the near future.

I invite you to read Joni Palmer's report from the Awards Director and the financial update our secretary Ola Johansson has prepared.

At this point, I would like wholeheartedly thank our board members for all their hard work. Every individual on this board has put tremendous effort to make this group a success. I can only hope that the new chair will have equally committed, hard-working, and passionate board members that she or he will be able to rely on as much as I did.

Finally, I would like to also thank each of you for your membership, your commitment to cultural geography, and your passion that you share with students and colleagues. Whether you are a board member or a regular member of our specialty group I am thankful for your diligent work and support of our discipline.

See you all this week in Boston!

Weronika A. Kusek, PhD CGSG, Chair EEGS Department at Northern Michigan University

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2017 AAG Marquee Address

Anne
Whiston
Spirn to
Deliver the
2017 CGSG
Annual
Marquee
Address in
Boston

"Restoring
Nature,
Rebuilding
Community:
The West
Philadelphia
Landscape
Project, 30
years of Action
Research"

Friday, April 7th from 3:20-5:00PM Room 111, Hynes, Plaza Level

Before Marquee Address, we will be handing out and celebrating our annual Student Award Winners!!

Op ed: Thoughts on the Current Job Market

"Abandon All Hope, Ye Who Enter Here"?: Thoughts on the Current Geographic Job Market

By Dr. Matthew Cook

Writer's note: The CGSG Grad Student
Representatives, Hannah Gunderman and Jordan
Brasher, both colleagues of mine through our
graduate studies at the University of Tennessee (Go
Vols!) asked me to write a piece for the annual CGSG
Place and Culture newsletter. As a recent job
applicant who was fortunate enough to be extended
the highly coveted and increasingly rare tenure-track
academic position, I obliged. Thus, this article is
primarily written to a graduate student audience and
those who are in the process of searching for a
tenure-track position in academia. My experience in
searching and applying for jobs outside of academia is
much more limited, and thus not really addressed
here.

As the title to this article attempts to indicate, it is a fairly well-accepted fact that the academic job market can alternately be labeled "tough" or "evertightening" or "tottering." (Just do a Google search, but be prepared for some glass-half-empty type of results!)

But that's not to say it is impossible, so do not give up hope.

Yes, the statistics are not particularly cheery. Pick an arbitrary point in the past (most recently, for instance, before the 2008-2009 financial crisis and its subsequent tidal wave effects in higher education), and things probably looked a lot better "back then." According to US Department of Education data, the percentage of total instructional staff at US Colleges and Universities has declined from 28.6 percent tenured and 15.9 percent tenure-track faculty in 1975/1976 to 16.6 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively, in 2011.

A look at contingent faculty reveals that the numbers for full-time lecturers/adjuncts have risen slightly from 10.2 percent to 15.7 percent over the same time period, while part-time lecturers/adjuncts now account for 41.5 percent of the higher education teaching workforce.

No doubt about it: we have a serious problem with current "business model" approaches in higher education, stemming from several major issues that I do not have time or space to get into in this article.

The question really then becomes, what do I/we do about it? Even this is really multiple questions wrapped up together. One, on a very practical level, what do grad students in geography need to do to set themselves up for getting a job in the current market? And two, what do we collectively need to do to push back against the rising "adjunctification" of the academic job market?

In this rest of this article I will primarily address the first question, rather than the second. However, because I feel we all have a part to play in making universities both a more equitable learning place and workplace, I do want to direct readers' attention to a more in-depth explanation than I can give here on how to work towards improving the conditions that have lead to the rise of adjunctification (see www.aaup.org/issues/contingency and www.chronicle.com/article/Straight-Talk-About/150881, for starters).

Oped: Thoughts on the Current Job Market

So then, to turn to the practical advice my colleagues were actually asking for, about the "ins and outs" of the job market, I will offer four pieces of advice before concluding with some general observations about the human geography academic job market.

The first, and probably most important piece of advice I have for the job market is that your academic advisor/mentor/dissertation chair—whatever term you have for this person—should be your biggest ally and asset in coaching you up through your graduate program with an eye to the job market. Now, I fully recognize and want to be the first to admit that I come from a position of privilege in this regard, because I had multiple outstanding mentors in my graduate studies at UT Knoxville: Dr. Micheline van Riemsdijk as my Master's advisor, and Dr. Derek Alderman as PhD advisor. While I would hope that selecting an advisor is given the most careful thought at an early stage in a grad student's career, I recognize that it is impossible to fully know in advance how the advisor will help coach students through the job market process. If you find yourself in a position where you are approaching the job market and do not feel that you are getting the right advice, I recommend broadening your pool of mentors to other faculty on your dissertation committee, within your department, and even consider building relationships with other trusted scholars in your specialization. All of these individuals can be considered as potential reference letter writers as well. One thing I did not realize until going on the market was that it was beneficial to have a scholar outside of my department/university listed as a reference. Having that outside member can demonstrate to potential employees that you are connected to the larger discipline, that you have done some networking at conferences or other events, and even that your work is interdisciplinary depending on who you select for your references.

The second piece of advice may be a no-brainer, but I think it is worth stating anyway: start investigating the job market early and often. I started obsessing over the academic job market almost too early: as a

second year master's student, I started checking the AAG Jobs Website fairly regularly to get a feel for the timing of the market: tenure-track positions come through early in the academic year, usually in the early fall as full-time positions get approved; parttime, adjunct, and visiting positions are much more common in the spring. Now, starting my job research at that stage in my career was interesting, although "practically" not much use (not many people are hiring non-PhDs these days, at least on the tenuretrack). However, let's be honest, job day dreaming is a nice distraction from writing your thesis. Beyond learning the timing of the academic job market, the second major benefit of "tracking" the market for several years was that I became aware of the specific kinds of positions and specializations that universities were looking for. Here's an obvious hint: nearly every position—though importantly, not all!—includes GIS skills as part of the wish list. Third, I also learned, somewhat painfully, that all that doom and gloom news mentioned earlier about the decline of tenure track positions? Yeah, it is pretty accurately reflected in the market. More on this later.

The third piece of advice I would give is actually just to do your homework on the institutions you are applying for. This also seems like common sense, but I hear from more experienced faculty that have participated in new hire searches that far too many applicants do not know much about the specifics of the departments or universities to which they apply. In my case, I tried to fit in as much time into my schedule as possible to research the programs I was targeting. In the position I eventually received at Eastern Michigan University, this meant reading through the various program requirements (B.S., M.S., and minors in the most relevant fields for me: geography, geotourism, and historic preservation), reading the bio pages for the faculty in geography and historic preservation, searching for potential faculty in other EMU departments that I could mention as potential future collaborators, etc.

Oped: Thoughts on the Current Job Market

I did all of this before getting a phone interview. I know it is difficult to do this while wrapping up a dissertation, but it could really help your chances.

The final piece of advice I would give is related to the third, and that is also to do your homework—the homework of learning how to craft each part of your application and practicing for interviews and/or job talks. Two related notes to this point: ask anyone in your department who is a recent hire if they are willing to share their application materials in order to see examples of how to write things like a cover letter, teaching philosophy statement, etc. Second, the absolute best website I found for these kinds of practical advice is The Professor Is In (http://theprofessorisin.com). Make this website your friend.

Finally, to conclude, I want to offer just a couple of thoughts about the overall human geography job market that I have noticed over the last several years. First, as I hinted at earlier—yes, most human geography jobs do include GIS skills as part of the job advertisement, but read the fine print. Do not assume just because GIS is listed that if you are a critical human geography/social theory nerd (or whatever) that you should throw that job listing out. It may be the case that GIS would be a plus, but it may not completely preclude you either even if your GIS skills are slightly rusty. Or nonexistent.

The job market for human geography is not perfect, but it is doing better and is healthier than the markets for some of our friends, say, for example, in the humanities. While there are certainly not enough tenure-track positions each year for everyone in the United States (and abroad!) who finishes a PhD, the total number of positions open each year that I have seen has improved. This may be the effects of baby boomers retiring or an overall improvement in the economy since 2008 (thanks, Obama—no really!). Or, maybe human geographers are doing a better job arguing for the importance of our discipline and skill set at their universities and thus being awarded new

tenure lines. I do not have the exact answer, and perhaps all three elements are in play. Finally, I would also highlight that I maintain a (cautiously) optimistic tone about the human geography job market in the last three years. A number of major departments have been (and still are, in some cases) hiring: University of Colorado, Boulder. Clark. Syracuse. Just a few examples, but still. If you, again cautiously, read between the lines on some of the more recent postings on the AAG Jobs website for department head and other high-ranking (associate/full) professorships, whoever ends up in these positions will possibly lead to new openings if/when the people receiving these jobs leave their current positions.

Again, I am cautiously optimistic, even if the future of academia is always uncertain. I hope, after reading this advice, that readers may be able to share in that optimism.

Dr. Matthew Cook Department of Geography & Geology Eastern Michigan University CGSG Nominations Director, 2016-2018



Dear CGSG Members,

Last year was a very good year for our specialty group awards! As we have come to expect, and appreciate, we received a number of exceptionally strong applications for all of the awards. As part of the award competition, the anonymous judges provided each applicant with feedback on her/his research proposal or paper to help strengthen and focus these research projects. We formally presented the awards at the Marquee Speaker Session in Chicago.

We awarded two Research Grant Awards in 2016. Dylan Harris (Clark University) received a \$1000 Denis Cosgrove PhD Research Grant Award for his research proposal titled "Reimagining Global Climate Change: Stories from High-Mountain Communities in Nepal and Bolivia." And Michael Hawkins (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) received a \$250 Master's level Research Grant Award for his research proposal titled "Militarized Intimacies and Nostalgias: American Military Retirees in Olongapo City, the Philippines."

Sara Hughes (UCLA) received the \$250 Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov Ph.D. Student Paper Award for her paper, "Suburban occupation: constructing "home" in West Bank settlements."

Congratulations to the award recipients for their excellent work! Please see the students' research and writing updates below. As well, thank you to all the student CGSG members who submitted research proposals and papers, and to the faculty members who encouraged students to participate!

And, thank you to the judges of the research grants and papers! We appreciate your hard work and your support of student research. If you would like to be a judge for the 2018 student research grants and paper awards, please let me know—we are always looking for people to not only judge the papers but provide meaningful feedback to the students.

Judging has just been completed for the 2017 student research grants and papers. I am very excited about presenting the awards at our Specialty Group's Marquee Speaker Session at the upcoming AAG Meeting in Boston. This session is scheduled for Friday April 7th from 3:20-5:00 pm in Room 111, Hynes, Plaza Level. Hope to see you then and there!

Regards,

joni m palmer, CGSG Awards Chaire: joni.palmer@colorado.edu



Denis E. Cosgrove Research Grant 2016: UPDATE for 2017 Newsletter

Telling the Story of Climate Change in Upper Mustang, Nepal

After waking up in Yara, my translator and friend, Anuj, and I decided to take a short detour to a centuries-old gompa (monastery) located further up the Kali Gandaki River Valley before continuing south to Charang. We set out with a troop of pilgrims who were also leaving Yara. Clad in scarlet and gold robes, the pilgrims, unsure of the way to their destination, ambled along same path we traveled. After some time and stopping to ask a farmer for directions, the pilgrims turned west, while Anuj and I continued to wind our way up the twisted path towards to the gompa.

In order to visit the gompa, we needed to find the monk who had its key. We wandered into the sleepy village, weary of guard dogs. We edged our way around a small construction site, and, after asking some of the workers for the whereabouts of the monk, found out that we were in front of his home. Soon after, a man wearing a heavy wool sweater, burnt orange beanie, and red sweat pants (the colors, if not the garb, of a Tibetan monk), stumbled out with a glass of rice beer (chang) and told the workers lunch would be ready soon. We learned that he had just returned from the gompa and would need to rest – which included more glasses of shared chang – before returning.

With chang in hand, Anuj and I chatted quietly inside his kitchen where a young woman prepared the workers' dal bhat. It was nice to sit for a while after walking for days in the arid high-deserts of Upper Mustang. We had been walking almost nonstop, save for a few hours to rest in the evenings, for several days since leaving the village Samzdong, where Nepal's supposed first climate refugees currently live while waiting to be resettled due to dwindling water resources. Samzdong was the first stop of my summer research trip, which was funded in part by the 2016 Denis E. Cosgrove Research Grant. The idea for this trip - and my continued dissertation research - is to address the apparent inability to effectively address global climate change, to bring it back into focus from the postpolitical. Using stories from the frontlines of climate change, my research is aimed at making climate change more discernable and thereby politicizeable.

Sitting in the monk's kitchen, I scribbled down field notes while he chugged his final glass of chang and told stories about how the land around him had changed over the past decades. At this point, many of the stories I heard about climate change in Upper Mustang from reporters and policymakers in Kathmandu were starting to unravel on the ground.

The monk grabbed his keys and led us on a winding path through his village and past the crumbling ruins of a previous king's summer castle. Along the way, he did not discuss dwindling water resources, though he acknowledged general water scarcity in the region. Rather, he spoke candidly — as a monk — about wanting to cull some of the mountain lions that have been killing his sheep. Due to shifting temperatures and weather patterns, highland grasses have moved further down slope, bringing herds of Tibetan gazelle with it. The mountain lions follow the gazelle and find the fenced-in sheep an easier target. Mountain lions are among the protected species within the largely tourist-funded Anapurna Conservation Area Project, making them untouchable by local populations.

As we approached the gompa, which had been built into sky caves that predate Tibetan Buddhism, the monk explained its long history, including how demons changed the landscape. Inside, the walls were coated in centuries of soot from burning butter lamps. Deeper inside the gompa, we circumambulated a two-story stupa, illuminated only by cracks in the cave wall. The monk explained how he and other monks hole up in the gompa for the winter, stranded inside by snow to pray for months. However, the snow had not fallen as thickly over the past several years.

Eventually, the monk showed us the way out and pointed towards a dry riverbed that would take us back to Yara and eventually to Charang. As we walked along riverbed, stepping occasionally over slivers of running water, the story of climate change continued to be spun in my head. As usual, the story is more complicated. What was officially a story of water shortage from experts in Kathmandu became more clearly about mountain lions, demons, economics, and tradition. As my research continues, it is the hope that stories like these continue to make climate change less abstract. What would the story look like if all sides were considered equally? Further, how does this story make climate politics more doable?

Dylan Harris, PhD student

Graduate School of Geography, Clark University, Worcester, MA 01610

Title of Proposal: Re-imagining Global Climate Change: Stories from High-Mountain Communities in Nepal and Bolivia dyharris@clarku.edu

Next Page: Captions + Credits: Dylan Harris

(clockwise from top left)

UM-1_DH -- View from the top of Samzdong Pass

UM-2 DH -- Mani Wall near Yara

UM-3 DH -- Overlooking the Kali Gandaki River Valley

UM-4_DH -- Luri Gompa

Denis E. Cosgrove Research Grant 2016: UPDATE for 2017 Newsletter

Telling the Story of Climate Change in Upper Mustang, Nepal









Master's Level Research Grant 2016: UPDATE for 2017 Newsletter

I used a \$250 Master's Level Research Grant from the Cultural Geography Specialty Group to help fund travel to the Philippines for my Master's thesis. For five weeks between July and August 2016, I conducted research in Olongapo, Philippines. Once home to Subic Bay Naval Base, one of the largest US military installations located in a foreign country (the base closed in 1991), Olongapo is now home to a few thousand former American service members who were once stationed at Subic and have moved back to the city to retire. During the American military period hundreds of bars, dancehalls and motels lined the city's streets, making it one of the most recognizable spaces of militarized sex work in Southeast Asia. Today a handful of bars remain and serve, in part, as social spaces for these American military retirees. Drawing on cultural geography, feminist geopolitics and interdisciplinary studies of the social effects of militarism, my research centers two types of transnational Filipina-American relationships in contemporary Olongapo.

Conducting interviews and engaging in participant observation in these retiree bars, the first part of my thesis looks to understand how the retiree bar produces a sense of belonging for these men. I looked to understand how intimate encounters in the bar like flirting and joking with the local waitresses who work there are interactions capable of reasserting notions of sexual desirability, masculinity and belonging as economic precarity and processes of ageing marginalize these military veterans in the US.

The second part of my research turned to transnational Filipina-American marriages. In addition to interviewing these American men and the women who work in retiree bars, I interviewed a handful of Filipina women married to these American men. This part of the research seeks to understand how Filipina-American marriages continue to shape subjectivities, transform spaces of belonging and grant access to new social worlds, dreams and desires over time for both American men and Filipina women beyond the structural reasons and individual desires that may have initially pushed these bodies together. I am extremely grateful that the CGSG was able to help support my travels and field work.

Michael Hawkins,

Masters Student, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Geography

Title of Proposal: Militarized Intimacies and Nostalgias: American Military Retirees in Olongapo City, the Philippines hawkins4@live.unc.edu



PHOTOGRAPH: "An American military retiree bar in Olongapo, Philippines"; CREDIT: Michael Hawkins

Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov Student Paper Award 2016: **UPDATE for 2017 Newsletter**

Last year at the AAG I was honored to be awarded the 2016 Cultural Geography Specialty Group Terry Jordan-Bychkov Award for outstanding paper by a doctoral student for my paper "Suburban occupation: constructing 'home' in West Bank settlements," which analyzes the material and discursive construction of home by Israeli settlers in the violently contested, military occupied West Bank. Since that time, the paper has undergone several revisions and has been submitted for publication at The Transactions of British Geographers under the title "Domesticity and Diasporic Homeland: Constructing 'home' in West Bank settlements" (it is currently under review). The paper is also a chapter of my dissertation, Suburban Occupation: contradictory impulses and outcomes of life in the occupied West Bank, which I plan to defend and file in June 2017. Currently on the job market and finalizing my doctoral research, I have been a grateful recipient of support from the CGSG. In addition to the paper award last year, in 2015 I was the recipient of a Denis E. Cosgrove Research Grant, which went towards supporting my ethnographic field work in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. I would encourage graduate students to get involved with the CGSG, and to submit their work for paper and grant competitions, and I look forward to remaining an active member of the CGSG in the next stage of my career!

Sara Salazar Hughes

PhD Student, Geography **UCLA** saranhughes@ucla.edu

Title of Paper: Suburban occupation: constructing

"home" in West Bank settlements



PHOTOGRAPH: Photograph of Sarah taken during field work in the summer of 2014 in the Tekoa wadi, near the Israeli settlement of Tekoa in the eastern Gush Etzion settlement bloc.

CGSC 2017 Elections

Dear CGSG Members,

I am happy to report to you in my first year as CGSG Nominations Director that we have once again had a highly successful election season! We are now in our third year of holding online elections to allow broader participation from the CGSG community, including those who cannot be present at the annual AAG conference or the CGSG business meeting. We once again used Kwik Survey to administer the elections. Elections run from March 20 to April 2, with results announced at the CGSG business meeting on Friday, April 7, 11:50 am. Results will also be posted following the meeting to the AAG Knowledge Community for wider distribution.

This year we are electing a new CGSG Chair, Awards Director, and Graduate Student Representative, each to two year positions that will run through the 2019 AAG meeting. We received two self-nominations each for the CGSG Chair and Awards Director positions, and three nominations for the Grad Student Representative position. A link to the online vote should have arrived to you by email from the official Knowledge Community on March 20. If you did not receive instructions, please contact me at mcook40@emich.edu or current chair, Weronika Kusek at wkusek@nmu.edu.

Thanks to everyone who remains committed to serving the CGSG—certainly signs of healthy and growing organization! Please consider running for a position next year when I send the annual call for nominations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Cook

CGSG Nominations Director, 2016-2018 Department of Geography & Geology Eastern Michigan University

mcook40@emich.edu



"This year we are electing a new CGSG Chair, **Awards** Director, and **Graduate** Student Representa -tive, each to two year positions that will run through the 2019 AAG meeting"

Graduate Student Representatives Report



Dear CGSG Members,



Boston has been a recent site of critical dialogue on civil rights, hosting the "Universities and Slavery: Bound by History" conference at Harvard, which explored the troubling relationship between universities and the institution of slavery. Fittingly, the theme for AAG's 2017 Annual Meeting in Boston is "Mainstreaming Human Rights," which comes at a crucial time in America amidst a political climate that threatens the basic civil and human rights of not only many of our members, but also millions of our fellow Americans and people around the world. And while Boston is a sanctuary city and the hub of several social justice movements, the city's cultural landscape legitimizes a white-washed form of American national memory and settler colonial history (boasting the Freedom Trail and the Paul Revere House) that arguably only selectively narrates a particular version of this region's and the nation's history.

Dr. Derek Alderman of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville will be taking over as president of the AAG in July 2017. He is a social and cultural geographer whose work connects the symbolic inequalities and struggles over place naming and cultural landscape to the very real material inequalities faced by people of color. We hope this will encourage the AAG to renew its commitment to an intersectional approach to social justice in research and outreach initiatives, particularly as scholars realize the increasingly interconnected nature of the host of geographic problems facing our world. Dr. Alderman has already informed us that he intends to propose a number of strategies for increasing Geography's outreach capacity and participation in public debates, especially those involving civil rights.

To this end, we have recently learned that one of Alderman's proposed initiatives has met with success with the help and support of many in the geographic education community. In November 2017, the theme of Geography Awareness Week will be "The Geography of Civil Rights Movements." It is a theme promoted through a grassroots effort by members of the state geographic alliances. Some alliances are working to develop learning resources for teachers, and many universities are beginning the brainstorming process for how to disseminate the importance of this theme on their campuses. Given the AAG Annual Meeting's theme and the efforts of the state alliances, we hope to see a reinvigorated effort to mainstream civil and human rights education, research, and activism in Geography in 2017.

The CGSG is sponsoring many sessions that highlight this year's theme and work towards bringing to light issues of racism, classism, sexism, and many other systems of inequality, discrimination, and oppression. While all of these CGSG-sponsored sessions are critically important, we will highlight just a few here: the (Extra)territoriality sessions (Parts 1-3) will explore topics in geopolitics, disputed territory, and zones of encounter. A panel session titled Pregnancy and Parenting in Academia is scheduled for Friday, April 7th. Also note several panel sessions on Feminist Political Geographies (Parts 1-5) and Race, Place and Violence (Parts 1-3), and What's School Got to Do with It? Race, Resistance, and a Call for Critical Geographies of Education (Parts 1-3) as well as the Geographies of Islamophobia session. While you are exploring sessions, please stop by the Exhibit Hall and check out the annual CGSG Landscape Photography Competition.

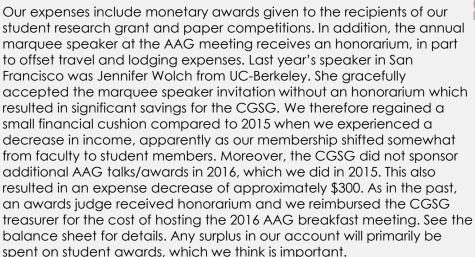
The annual CGSG Breakfast, organized by the Graduate Student Representatives, will be held at the Dunkin Donuts at the Prudential Tower, 800 Boylston St (right near the Marriott!) from 7:30am-9:30am on Thursday, April 6th. Please come for free coffee, donuts, and assorted breakfast items, and meet the members of CGSG!

Hannah Gunderman haunderm@vols.utk.edu

Jordan Brasher ibrashe3@vols.utk.edu

Report from the Treasurer

The balance of the CGSG account increased from \$3038 at the end of 2015 to \$3780 at the end of 2016. This is a result of our total expenses decreasing (see below) as well as a modest increase in incomes, which comes from collected membership dues. In 2016 we collected \$2505 in membership dues compared to \$2413 in 2015. This is somewhat curious because the membership of the CGSG dropped from 1008 in February 2016 to 850 currently (updated as of March 2017). This apparent contradiction may be explained by variations in the ratio between faculty members and student members (the former category pays the full \$5 membership fee while the latter pays \$2).



Any questions regarding the budget can be addressed to the treasurer at: johans@pitt.edu.

Respectfully Submitted, **Ola Johansson**CGSG Secretary-Treasurer

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
12/31/15	Dues collected Dec. 2015	190.00	3,038.55
1/31/16	Dues collected Jan. 2016	229.00	3,267.55
2/29/16	Dues collected Feb. 2016	211.00	3,478.55
3/31/16	Reimburs. for AAG breakfast (Johansson)	-213.24	3,265.31
3/23/16	Jordan Bychkov PhD Paper Award	-250.00	3,015.31
3/23/16	Cosgrove Research Grant Award	-500.00	2,515.31
3/23/16	MA Research Grant Award	-250.00	2,265.31
3/31/16	Dues collected March 2016	132.00	2,397.31
4/26/16	Cosgrove Award (2nd payment)	-500.00	1,897.31
4/26/16	Paper competition judging	-50.00	1,847.31
4/30/16	Dues collected April 2016	93.00	1,940.31
5/31/16	Dues collected May 2016	78.00	2,018.31
6/30/16	Dues collected June 2016	66.00	2,084.31
7/31/16	Dues collected July 2016	86.00	2,170.31
8/31/16	Dues collected Aug 2016	135.00	2,305.31
9/30/16	Dues Collected Sept 2016	178.00	2,483.31
10/31/16	Dues Collected Oct 2016	880.00	3,363.31
11/30/16	Dues collected Nov. 2016	313.00	3,676.31
12/31/16	Dues collected Dec. 2016	104.00	3,780.31



CGSG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG

Cultural Geography Specialty Group Sponsored Sessions at the 2017 AAG Meeting

The Cultural Geography Specialty Group has sponsored 104 sessions for the 2017 annual meeting of the AAG. These CGSG sponsored sessions see geographers maintaining engagement with themes and concepts (e.g., place, identity, and landscape) that are and long have been key to the sub-discipline, and at the same time pushing the limits of cultural-geographical work, both in form as well as in content.

The 2017 program includes **our annual marquee lecture**, this year delivered by **Dr. Anne Whitson Spirn (MIT)** on Friday from 3:20 to 5:00 PM in Room 111 of the Hynes Convention Center. Dr. Spirn will give a talk titled "Restoring Nature, Rebuilding Community: The West Philadelphia Landscape Project, 30 Years of Action Research." The CGSG has also sponsored a **panel session for visioning the future of the Journal of Cultural Geography**, scheduled for Thursday from 3:20 to 5:00 PM in Room 104 of the Hynes Convention Center. Cultural geographers can also see their sub-discipline represented in the Exhibit Hall, where our graduate student representatives will have installed a display for our annual **Landscape Photography Competition**.

Please also be sure to come out for a cup of coffee and a light breakfast at our annual **CGSG Breakfast Social**. Our specialty group's graduate student representatives have arranged the breakfast for Thursday morning from 7:30 to 9:30 AM in the Dunkin Donuts at the Prudential Tower (800 Boylston Street). Finally, we would love to see many of you at the **CGSG Business Meeting**, which is scheduled for Friday from 11:50 to 1:10 PM in Room 104 of the Hynes Convention Center. We will recognize award winners, confirm elections to the specialty group board, and plan programming for the coming year.

Enjoy this year's meeting, and please look for these opportunities to get involved in the CGSG-sponsored programming!

Nicholas Jon Crane CGSG Program Director University of Wyoming ncrane@uwyo.edu



Your Guide to CGSGsponsored Sessions in Boston

Wednesday, April 5

1153 Critical Approaches to Immigration Research 1: Forming Identities, 8:00-9:40 AM in Dalton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

1155 Improvisation: the art of making do (1), 8:00-9:40 AM in Hampton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

1156 Feminist Political Geographies 1: Epistemology, Methodology, and Representation, 8:00-9:40 AM in Hampton B, Sheraton, Third Floor

1172 Legal Geography and Social Justice I, 8:00-9:40 AM in MIT, Marriott, Third Floor

1181 (Extra)territoriality Part I: Occupation, disputed territory, and geopolitics, 8:00-9:40 AM in Clarendon, Marriott, Third Floor

1228 Contextualizing the effects of the European Migration 'Crisis,' 10:00-11:40 AM in Room 308, Hynes, Third Level

1253 Critical Approaches to Immigration Research 2: Politics of Representation, 10:00-11:40 AM in Dalton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

1255 Improvisation: the art of making do (2), 10:00-11:40 AM in Hampton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

CGSG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG

Your Guide to CGSGsponsored Sessions in Boston [Continued]

Wednesday, April 5 [continued]

1256 Feminist Political Geographies 2: Affect and Emotion, 10:00-11:40 AM in Hampton B, Sheraton, Third Floor

1272 Legal Geography and Social Justice II, 10:00-11:40 AM in MIT, Marriott, Third Floor

1281 (Extra)territoriality Part II: Migration, refugees, and securitization, 10:00-11:40 AM in Clarendon, Marriott, Third Floor

1406 Geographies of South Asian Migration and Diasporas, 12:40-2:20 PM in Room 107, Hynes, Plaza Level

1455 Improvisation: the art of making do (3) – panel discussion, 12:40-2:20 PM in Hampton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

1456 Feminist Political Geographies 3: Bridging Feminist Political and Economic Geographies, 12:40-2:20 PM in Hampton B, Sheraton, Third Floor

1472 Legal Geography and Social Justice III, 12:40-2:20 AM in MIT, Marriott, Third Floor

1481 (Extra)territoriality Part III: Tourism and other industry, zones of encounter, and the role of the state, 12:40-2:20 PM in Clarendon, Marriott, Third Floor

1484 Taste, Space, and the Urban Landscape I, 12:40-2:20 PM in Fairfield, Marriott, Third Floor

1506 Geographies of Beer, Part I: Theory, Method, and Practice in the Geography of Beer, 2:40-4:20 PM in Room 107, Hynes, Plaza Level

1550 Human geographies of the rural United States, 2:40-4:20 PM in Beacon F, Sheraton, Third Floor

1556 Feminist Political Geographies 4: Feminist Perspectives on Science and Materiality, 2:40-4:20 PM in Hampton B, Sheraton, Third Floor

1584 Taste, Space, and the Urban Landscape II, 2:40-4:20 PM in Fairfield, Marriott, Third Floor

1623 Spatial Narrative in the GeoHumanities: Aesthetics, Methods, and Theory, 4:40-6:20 PM in Room 303, Hynes, Third Level

1656 Feminist Political Geographies 5: Resistance and Social Movements, 4:40-6:20 PM in Hampton B, Sheraton, Third Floor

1684 Taste, Space, and the Urban Landscape III, 4:40-6:20 PM in Fairfield, Marriott, Third Floor

1696 Mountain Connectivity: Conservation and Development, 4:40-6:20 in Maine, Marriott, Fifth Floor

CGGG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG

Your Guide to CGSGsponsored Sessions in Boston [Continued]

Thursday, April 6

2108 Architecture as urban generator? Flagshipness, iconicity media and impact, 8:00-9:40 AM in Room 109, Hynes, Plaza Level

2128 Racism's Toxic Entanglements in the Age of Flint and Ferguson I, 8:00-9:40 AM in Room 308, Hynes, Third Level

2138 Theorizing Citizenship in Higher Education: Students and Agents for Change? I: State, University, and Citizenship Production, 8:00-9:40 AM in Independence East, Sheraton, Second Floor

2153 The power of enchantment: exploring the affective entanglements between bodies, objects and space in constituting national identifications, 8:00-9:40 AM in Dalton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

2208 Architecture as urban generator? Urban restructuring and urban regeneration, 10:00-11:40 AM in Room 109, Hynes, Plaza Level

2228 Racism's Toxic Entanglements in the Age of Flint and Ferguson II, 10:00-11:40 AM in Room 308, Hynes, Third Level 2238 Theorizing Citizenship in Higher Education: Students and Agents for Change? II: Educational Mobilities and Alternative Citizenships, 10:00-11:40 AM in Independence East, Sheraton, Second Floor

2249 Destabilizing race and nature: critical perspectives, 10:00-11:40 AM in Beacon E, Sheraton, Third Floor

2408 Architecture as urban generator? Urban competitiveness, 1:20-3:00 PM in Room 109, Hynes, Plaza Level

2453 Urban forms in the Global South I: The state, the city and the production of social difference, 1:20-3:00 PM in Dalton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

2457 Contemporary Issues in Ethnic Geography, 1:20-3:00 PM in Gardner A, Sheraton, Third Floor

2468 The Call of Place: More-Than-Human Dialogues and Relationships, 1:20-3:00 PM in St. Botolph, Marriott, Second Floor

2477 Political Geographies of Authoritarianism, 1:20-3:00 PM in Harvard, Marriott, Third Floor

2504 The future of the Journal of Cultural Geography, with featured panelist Alyson Greiner (Editor, 2002-2016), 3:20-5:00 PM in Room 104, Hynes, Plaza Level

2508 Architecture as urban generator? Place making, branding and identity, 3:20-5:00 PM in Room 109, Hynes, Plaza Level

CGSG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG

Your Guide to CGSGsponsored Sessions in Boston [Continued]

Thursday, April 6 [continued]

2553 Urban forms in the Global South II: The state, the city and the production of social difference, 3:20-5:00 PM in Dalton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

2597 Radicalizing the politics of 'living with': enacting race, ethnicity, and difference in animal geography scholarship, 3:20-5:00 PM in Massachusetts, Marriott, Fifth Floor

Friday, April 7

3119 Transnational Migration and Discursive Practices in the Host Society, 8:00-9:40 AM in Room 210, Hynes, Second Level

3149 China as Methods I, 8:00-9:40 AM in Beacon E, Sheraton, Third Floor

3155 Imagined Landscapes: Geovisualizing Australian Spatial Narratives, by Jane Stadler, Peta Mitchell, and Stephen Carleton – Author-Meets-Critics Panel Session, 8:00-9:40 AM in Hampton A, Sheraton, Third Floor

3160 Pregnancy and Parenting in Academia, 8:00-9:40 AM in Fairfax B, Sheraton, Third Floor 3188 Material Culture and Geography, 8:00-9:40 AM in Salon K, Marriott, Fourth Floor

3224 Sensing the Elemental, 10:00-11:40 AM in Room 304, Hynes, Third Level

3249 China as Methods II, 10:00-11:40 AM in Beacon E, Sheraton, Third Floor

3265 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Honors Professor Derek Alderman, 10:00-11:40 AM in Tremont, Marriott, First Floor

3266 Public Art: Spaces As Sites of 'Living Together,' 10:00-11:40 AM in Columbus 1, Marriott, First Floor

3304 Cultural Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting, 11:50-1:10 PM in Room 104, Hynes, Plaza Level

3417 Race, Place and Violence: Historical and Contemporary Issues of Memory I, 1:20-3:00 PM in Room 206, Hynes, Second Level

3428 The Call of the Wild: Writing and Walking in American Landscapes, 1:20-3:00 PM in Room 308, Hynes, Third Level

3482 Memory and Place, 1:20-3:00 PM in Dartmouth, Marriott, Third Floor

3483 Our National Parks: 100 Years and Beyond, 1:20-3:00 PM in Exeter, Marriott, Third Floor

CGGG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG

Your Guide to CGSGsponsored Sessions in Boston [Continued]

Friday, April 7 [continued]

3510 Cultural Geography Specialty Group Marquee Address by Anne Whiston Spirn, 3:20-5:00 PM in Room 111, Hynes, Plaza Level

3517 Race, Place and Violence: Historical and Contemporary Issues of Memory II, 3:20-5:00 PM in Room 206, Hynes, Second Level

3582 Metrics of place: measuring and evaluating placemaking, 3:20-5:00 PM in Dartmouth, Marriott, Third Floor

3593 Spatializing Music Performance, Consumption and Political Economies, 3:20-5:00 in Orleans, Marriott, Fourth Floor

3610 cultural geographies Annual Lecture by Matt Wilson, 5:20-7:00 PM in Room 111, Hynes, Plaza Level

3617 Race, Place and Violence: Historical and Contemporary Issues of Memory III, 5:20-7:00 PM in Room 206, Hynes, Second Level

3621 Music, Sound, Space, 5:20-7:00 PM in Room 301, Hynes, Third Level

3667 Religion, Spatiality, and Placemaking: Comparative and Historical Perspectives, 5:20-7:00 PM in Columbus 2, Marriott, First Floor 3681 Neoliberalizing Spaces in the Philippines: Suburbanization, Transnational Migration, and Dispossession by Andre Ortega – An Author-Meets-Critics Panel Session, 5:20-7:00 PM in Clarendon, Marriott, Third Floor

3693 Mobile bodies, technologies and methods: critical perspectives, 5:20-7:00 PM in Orleans, Marriott, Fourth Floor

Saturday, April 8

4116 'Doing' memory research differently (I), 8:00-9:40 AM in Room 205, Hynes, Second Level

4164 Into the Void I: Invisible, 8:00-9:40 AM in Boylston, Marriott, First Floor

4166 The Wasteland I: Ontologies of the Wasteland, 8:00-9:40 AM in Columbus 1, Marriott, First Floor

4182 Urban Metaphors and Social Inequalities in the Americas, 8:00-9:40 AM in Dartmouth, Marriott, Third Floor

4195 Practicing and Representing Everyday Life, 8:00-9:40 AM in Falmouth, Marriott, Fourth Floor

4216 'Doing' memory research differently (II), 10:00-11:40 AM in Room 205, Hynes, Second Level

4264 Into the Void II: Chimerical, 10:00-11:40 AM in Boylston, Marriott, First Floor

CGGG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG

Your Guide to CGSGsponsored Sessions in Boston [Continued]

Saturday, April 8 [continued]

4267 Geographies of Youth Political Engagement, 10:00-11:40 AM in Columbus 2, Marriott, First Floor

4416 Film Geographies: Text, Context and Political Economies, 1:20-3:00 PM in Room 205, Hynes, Second Level

4450 Linguistic Geography 1, 1:20-3:00 PM in Beacon F, Sheraton, Third Floor

4464 Into the Void III: Supernatural, 1:20-3:00 PM in Boylston, Marriott, First Floor

4477 What's School Got to Do with It? Race, Resistance, and a Call for Critical Geographies of Education I, 1:20-3:00 PM in Harvard, Marriott, Third Floor

4487 'A World of Islands' – Archipelagic Studies, 1:20-3:00 PM in Salon J, Marriott, Fourth Floor

4473 Critical Worldbuilding 1: Thinking fictional worlds through critical geography, 1:20-3:00 PM in Boston University, Marriott, Third Floor

4516 Historicising the mind. Between conscious and unconscious states of mentation. I, 3:20-5:00 PM in Room 205, Hynes, Second Level

4450 Linguistic Geography 2, 3:20-5:00 PM in Beacon F, Sheraton, Third Floor

4564 Into the Void IV: Absent, 3:20-5:00 PM in Boylston, Marriott, First Floor

4573 Critical Worldbuilding 2: Counterfactuals and building alternative futures, 3:20-5:00 PM in Boston University, Marriott, Third Floor

4577 What's School Got to Do with It? Race, Resistance, and a Call for Critical Geographies of Education II, 3:20-5:00 PM in Harvard, Marriott, Third Floor

4616 Historicising the mind. Between conscious and unconscious states of mentation. 2, 5:20-7:00 PM in Room 205, Hynes, Second Level

4631 GeoHumanities GeoPoetics Poetry Reading, 5:20-7:00 PM in Room 311, Hynes, Third Level

4664 Into the Void V: Disintegrated, 5:20-7:00 PM in Boylston, Marriott, First Floor

4673 Critical Worldbuilding 3: Politics and potentiality, 5:20-7:00 PM in Boston University, Marriott, Third Floor

4677 What's School Got to Do with It? Race, Resistance, and a Call for Critical Geographies of Education III, 5:20-7:00 PM in Harvard, Marriott, Third Floor

Sunday, April 9

5149 Geography and Digital Film – What next? 8:00-9:40 AM in Beacon E, Sheraton, Third Floor

5172 The politics of contemporary consumption: rethinking 'consumer subjectivity,' 8:00-9:40 in MIT, Marriott, Third Floor

CGSG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG

Your Guide to CGSGsponsored Sessions in Boston [Continued]

Sunday, April 9 [continued]

5175 Sense as a field's experience in geography of arts: methods and tools, positionality and teaching, 8:00-9:40 AM in Suffolk, Marriott, Third Floor

5191 Geographies of Islamophobia I, 8:00-9:40 AM in Nantucket, Marriott, Fourth Floor 5258 Emotion, politics and literary space: book discussion of Sunil Yapa's Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist (2016), 10:00-11:40 in Gardner B, Sheraton, Third Floor

5249 Geography and Digital Film – What next? A Roundtable Panel Discussion, 10:00-11:40 AM in Beacon E, Sheraton, Third Floor

5273 UBC Urban Studies Lab Panel I (Environment and Social Psychology): Interdisciplinary Urban Inquiry, 10:00-11:40 AM in Boston University, Marriott, Third Floor

5291 Geographies of Islamophobia II, 10:00-11:40 AM in Nantucket, Marriott, Fourth Floor

5296 The Contact Zone I: Environments of Contact, 10:00-11:40 AM in Maine, Marriott, Fifth Floor

5465 Cultural Wars, Political Geography, and the LGBTQ Community, 2:00-3:40 PM in Tremont, Marriott, First Floor

5473 UBC Urban Studies Lab Panel II (Social Justice): Interdisciplinary Theoretical Urban Inquiry, 2:00-3:40 PM in Boston University, Marriott, Third Floor

5483 Geographies of 15M: Cultural Ecology and Social Movements in Spain, 2:00-3:40 PM in Exeter, Marriott, Third Floor

5496 The Contact Zone II: Where Species Meet, 2:00-3:40 PM in Maine, Marriott, Fifth Floor

5573 UBC Urban Studies Lab Panel III (Algorithms & Society): Interdisciplinary Theoretical Urban Inquiry, 4:00-5:40 PM in Boston University, Marriott, Third Floor

5591 Historical Geographies, Race, and Ethnicity, 4:00-5:40 PM in Nantucket, Marriott, Fourth Floor

5596 The Contact Zone III: w/ Mary Louise Pratt – Navigating the Multispecies Contact Zone, 4:00-5:40 PM in Maine, Marriott, Fifth Floor

CGSG Featured Department

Note from the editor: Welcome to the newest section of the CGSC newsletter. This section will feature departments that are committed to promoting Cultural Geography on their campuses, to their students, and to the broader community. There are many departments to choose from and this year we asked the **Global Studies and Human Geography Department at Middle Tennessee**State to provide us with a piece that features their great work in the area of human and cultural geography – W.Kusek



Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) is excited to announce the addition of the Global Studies and Human Geography Department to the College of Liberal Arts starting fall 2017. The new department results from growing student interest in innovative approaches to global issues and their implications in local communities. Global Studies began as a minor at MTSU in the 1990s. Within a decade, a Global Studies major was added and the standalone Global Studies program was launched. Under the leadership of Dr. Doug Heffington, a cultural geographer, all human geography courses were transferred from the Department of Geosciences to Global Studies (renamed as the Global Studies and Cultural Geography Program).

Geography is intrinsically a multi-paradigmatic science, thus offering Global Studies a sturdy disciplinary foundation. The merger has been a success. As of fall of 2016, the program had grown to include 120 majors and currently offers a B.S in Global Studies and a B.S. in Cultural Geography.

The Global Studies and Human Geography Department will offer timely and relevant academic and career paths for students seeking knowledge about and direct experience in a globalizing world. Key components of the department's curriculum include an education abroad requirement, internships with local and international nonprofits, and experiential learning and fieldwork projects. Courses are designed to train students how to critically examine, understand, and reflect upon local, regional, and global connections between peoples, places, and events from cross-cultural, interdisciplinary perspectives. The department will foster multidisciplinary collaboration across the University; however, spatial analysis has been and will continue to be central to the department's pedagogy. The aim is to introduce students to a variety of contemporary issues—ranging from gender, race, ethnicity, cross-cultural interactions, human trafficking, migration, transnational identities, political instability, resource distribution, and globalization—and explore how they relate to and affect societies on both a local and global scale.

MTSU is located in the Nashville-Murfreesboro-Franklin MSA, which ranks as one of the fastest growing urban areas in the United States. As a result, the metropolitan area boasts a healthy, diversified economy that is globally linked to Asia, Europe, and Latin America as well as a burgeoning immigrant and refugee community. The pedagogical framework of the new Global Studies and Human Geography Department reflects the region's profile and is tailored meet many local employment demands by affording its majors and minors a competitive skillset for careers in government and non-government organizations, transnational corporations, research, the non-profit sector, and education. MTSU alumni with undergraduate degrees in Global Studies and Cultural Geography have successfully pursued jobs abroad in global firms, the U.S. State Department, and international nonprofits.

MTSU's Global Studies and Human Geography Department will be the first of its kind in the southeastern United States. The new department endeavors to combine a liberal arts education centered around the discipline of geography with the practical benefits of pre-professional experience and training. This departmental approach differs from more traditional geography and geoscience departments and potentially could serve as a viable model for universities that wish to explore interdisciplinary degree offerings.

2017 CGGG Business Meeting

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE:

2017 CGSG
Business Meeting
Friday, 4/7
11:50 to 1:10 PM
Room 104
Hynes Convention Center



Material Culture Call for Papers

Material

The Journal of the International Society for Landscape, Place, & Material Culture

Now Accepting Manuscripts

The topics covered by *Material Culture* include all aspects of the study of material items from any world regional focus. These include: the role of products and commodities in the global economy, the cultural patterns that explain distribution and diffusion; exploration of cultural patterns in performing and visual arts; understanding tradition and innovation among individuals and the societies creating them; the meaning and importance of past and contemporary objects to their makers and users; attempts at restoring and maintaining folk and popular culture landscape elements; and the importance of understanding the relationships of material culture in the contemporary landscape. We welcome manuscripts from individuals interested in these subjects and encourage interested authors to discuss ideas with the Editor.

Editor: Sara Beth Keough, Ph.D., sbkeough@svsu.edu

Book Review Editor: Claire Jantz, Ph.D., cajant@ship.edu

Submission Guidelines: http://www.pioneeramerica.org/

materialculturecurrent.html

Place and Culture

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE
CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP
OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS

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