

Urban Geography Specialty Group Newsletter

Assoc. of American Geographers

<http://geog-nt.geog.buffalo.edu/ugsg>

Vol. 21, No. 3 Nov, 2000

letter from the editor

Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter! Each year the November issue contains a great deal of information crucial to the functioning of the specialty group. As you will see, this year is no exception. I would especially like to draw your attention to the board member **ELECTION BALLOT ON PAGE 6**. The following pages contain the biographies of those running in this year's election. Please take a few minutes to review this information and cast your vote by the **DEADLINE OF JANUARY 15, 2001**. Your participation in this election is crucial to the future of the specialty group, so I strongly encourage you to vote.

Other announcements in this edition relate to our dissertation, theses, and student paper competitions. These honors are important aspects of the group's activities and serve to highlight top-quality research and writing by students in urban geography. While we have seen excellent submissions for these competitions in recent years, I think I can speak for Judith Kenny and the group's board members when I say that it would be good to see a greater number of submissions. The board encourages eligible graduate students and their advisers to submit dissertations, theses, and papers. Furthermore, the undergraduate paper competition named in memory of Glenda Laws provides the opportunity for the group to honor and encourage the work of the next generation of urban geographers. Please remember this competition and encourage your better undergraduate students to submit their work.

Finally, I want to direct your attention to the announcement about student travel funds and to tell you that the next edition will include a list of the sponsored sessions Glen Elder and Sarah Elwood coordinated for New York.

Eugene McCann

Department of Geography, The Ohio State University,
Email: mccann.80@osu.edu

student travel support

The UGSG has a small amount of money to support graduate student travel to the AAG meetings in New York. To apply, please send a letter stating the nature of your participation (paper or poster presentation), degree program, institutional affiliation, and reason for attendance at the meetings. You also need to include a copy of the abstract and a copy of your registration information. All materials need to be sent to Professor Dan Hammel (Department of Geography-Geology, Campus Box 4400, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790, e-mail: dhammel@ilstu.edu) at the latest by January 15, 2001. Awards will be announced as soon as possible after the deadline.

annual student competitions

Dissertation Competition

Deadline: January 1st, 2001

The UGSG Dissertation and Masters Thesis Awards Committee (Chair, Geraldine Pratt, Jeff Hopkins and Byron Miller) solicits submissions of dissertations for the 2000 UGSG Dissertation Award. The winner of the award will receive \$250. The dissertation must have been completed during the 2000 calendar. Dissertations submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. *Send one copy to each of the judges:* Professor Geraldine Pratt, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C. V6T 1Z2 Canada - gpratt@geog.ubc.ca; Professor Jeff Hopkins, Department of Geography, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A 5C2 Canada - jhopkins@julian.uwo.ca; Professor Byron Miller, Department of Geography, University of Calgary, Calgary Alberta T2N 1N4, Canada - bavrmill@ucalgary.ca. Arrangements may be made to send the dissertation as an email attachment or disk copy if you confirm this with each of the judges. Please contact Geraldine Pratt gpratt@geog.ubc.ca with questions.

Masters Thesis Competition

Deadline: January 1st, 2001

The UGSG Dissertation and Masters Thesis Awards Committee (Chair, Geraldine Pratt, Jeff Hopkins and Byron Miller) solicits submissions of theses for the 2000 UGSG Masters Thesis Award. The winner of the award will receive \$250. The thesis must have been completed during the 2000 calendar. Theses submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. *Send one copy to each of the judges* (listed in the Dissertation competition announcement, above). Arrangements may be made to send the dissertation as an email attachment or disk copy if you confirm this with each of the judges. Please contact Geraldine Pratt gpratt@geog.ubc.ca with questions.

MORE COMPETITIONS, OVER →

contents

Announcements of Student Competitions	1&2
Report on the UGSG Graduate Student Workshop	2&3
Announcement of AAG NYC Graduate Workshop	3
Candidate Biographies	4&5
UGSG Board Election Ballot	6

annual competitions (cont.)

Student Paper Competition

Deadline, February 5th, 2001

This award goes to the best paper on any aspect of Urban Geography given by a student at any professional meeting in the 12 months preceding (and including) the New York AAG conference. Preference will be given to fully developed academic papers. The winner of the award will receive \$50 and an invitation to submit the paper to *Urban Geography*. Send one copy to each of the judges: Professor Glen Elder, Department of Geography, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 05405, USA; Professor Deborah Martin, Department of Geography, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602, USA; and Professor Gerda Wekerle, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, Ontario, M3J 1P3, Canada. If you have any questions please contact Deborah Martin (dgmartin@uga.edu).

UGSG Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper Award

Deadline, February 5th, 2001

This award goes to the best paper on an urban geographic topic written by an undergraduate student, regardless of membership in the AAG or participation in the 2000 Annual Meetings. The winner of the award will receive \$50. Papers submitted for awards to other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. Send one copy to each of the judges (listed in the Student Paper Competition announcement, above).

graduate student workshop: publishing in urban journals

Editor's note: This is the second part of a report on this very successful workshop. It presents tips on publishing in urban-related journals, from the editors themselves. The first installment, included in the July 2000 newsletter, dealt with the work of urban research centers.

The Specialty Group Student Board Members (Deborah Martin and Katherine Jones) would like to thank all those who participated in our first Graduate Student Workshop, held at the AAG meeting in Pittsburgh. The goal of the workshop was twofold: to familiarize students with the various roles that University-based Urban Research Centers play, and to provide students with information and tips on publishing in urban-related journals. We plan to hold a similar workshop at next year's AAG meeting in New York, and we are currently looking for ideas for next year's topic. Please feel free to E-Mail Katherine Jones (joneska@mail.ecu.edu) or Sarah Elwood (elwo0005@tc.umn.edu), who has taken Deborah's place as student representative, with your thoughts and ideas for the workshop. We want to serve the student members and provide a forum for education, discussion and networking for young urban geographers, so please help us out by letting us know what would be useful for you!

The workshop in Pittsburgh was very well attended, and featured journal editors Jim Wheeler (*Urban Geography*) and Mickey Lauria (*Journal of Planning Education and Research*), along with Assistant Editor Jodie Guy (*Urban Geography*). They spoke about these journals and also more generally about publishing. *Urban Geography* is a broadly focused journal that publishes articles across the range of urban topics, including applied and quantitative research as well work with a more social or qualitative approach. Graduate student manuscripts are welcome at the journal. Professor Wheeler encouraged prospective authors to target a particular journal during the writing phase. Authors should prepare a manuscript with one journal in mind, and should follow that journal's formatting requirements closely. Authors should not be discouraged by initially negative reviewer comments, because such comments are common and do not necessarily mean an article cannot be published.

Professor Lauria began by describing the audience for the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. *JPER* is a scholarly journal targeted primarily to faculty in university planning departments. Manuscripts from geographers, including graduate students, are also very welcome at the journal. Professor Lauria described what he, as an editor, looks for in an article for *JPER*, but his criteria may also be generalized for other journals. A good article for *JPER* incorporates three elements: it should include a good "hook" or problem statement; it should clearly articulate a methodological or theoretical improvement; and it should be relevant to planning practice, theory, or teaching. *JPER* publishes empirical, theoretical, and instructional articles. Theoretical articles identify flaws or gaps in previous theoretical work and then address that flaw. Instructional articles describe a course or an approach that worked well in teaching. It is important that all types of articles show clarity in purpose and be well reasoned or argued. An empirical piece should be theoretically informed and should demonstrate clear thinking about a problem statement. It should clarify the significance of its findings and should make clear to the reader why these issues are important. The author should review the relevant literature, and point out gaps or problems in the earlier literature in terms of method or research design. The author should describe her/his study methods in detail, and should discuss the ways in which their research resolves earlier research flaws. The author should also be sure to include a conclusion which highlights the contribution made by the article.

Along with Professor Wheeler and Ms. Guy, Professor Lauria encouraged prospective authors not to be discouraged by critical reviews. He suggested that authors read the reviews then set them aside for a while. Later, re-read the paper with the reviews in mind, making a list of constructive points that came out of the reviews, and also those things the reviewers may have mis-interpreted or mis-read. Keep in mind that editors do not necessarily expect that all the reviews will be unanimous. Contradictory reviews are quite common, but authors should look to the editor for some clarification or hint. Editors typically provide an author with some indication of which review they think is more important. If an author is unsure how to proceed in

revising the article, they should contact the Editor for clarification. Revised articles should always be accompanied by a cover letter that indicates what changes have been made to the piece and how these changes respond to reviewer comments. The author should also explain what changes were not made, and why. The Editor does not necessarily expect authors to respond positively to all reviewer suggestions, but where they have not made reviewer-suggested changes, they should explain this. The Editor will probably make second-round reviewers aware of what advice has been given to the author, so the reviewer may temper their reviews accordingly. Authors should remember to thank the Editor and the reviewers for their time and effort, because these folks are volunteering both! The author should also keep in mind that referees who review their article probably read that article more closely than any other reader – if these reviewers are missing the article's point, then the author probably does need to add some clarification.

Finally, Professor Lauria reminded the audience that a typical review period for JPER is about 90 to 100 days, and only about 10% of initial submissions are ever accepted on the first round. About one third of all articles require two sets of revisions, so prospective authors should begin the process expecting to do some revisions. Before they send a paper in they should get as many comments from friends or colleagues as possible, write, and re-write – but don't get discouraged!

Deborah Martin
Asst. Professor
Dept. of Geography
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
dgmartin@uga.edu

Katherine Jones
Ph.D. Candidate
Dept. of Geography
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506
joneska@mail.edu.ecu

new urban geography faculty

Jochen Albrecht (Ph.D. Vechta, Germany - 1995) has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**. His main interest in urban geography is the combination of behavioral, environmental, economic, and complex views of urban systems for the development of modeling software that contributes to an applied geography based on action research.

Christopher De Sousa (Ph.D. Toronto - 2000) has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**. He continues to work on urban brownfield redevelopment issues in Canada and the US, and is currently examining the reuse of brownfields for greenspace.

workshop: tips for first year faculty

***what you need to know but probably
didn't learn in graduate school***

The AAG Urban Geography Specialty Group is pleased to sponsor a workshop for graduate students (and young faculty) at the AAG 2001 Annual meeting in New York (Check your program for day, time, and location)

Please join Sarah Elwood and Katherine Jones (UGSG Student Board Members) at our second annual workshop aimed at graduate students and young faculty members with urban geography related interests. This year's workshop will tackle concerns and issues common to junior faculty making the transition from graduate student to assistant professor. Our guests at the workshop are both experienced department chairs who will offer advice and suggestions. There will also be ample time for questions and discussion.

Topics for discussion include:

- Balancing teaching, research, and service. How important is each?
- Differences between small and large departments
- Questions you should ask your chair
- How to determine what your chair really expects

Our Guests at the Workshop:

Ron Mitchelson, East Carolina University
Leo Zonn, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

~All are Welcome. Please Join Us!~

publicize urban programs or events at the workshop

The UGSG graduate Student Workshop Organizers are happy to distribute brochures, flyers, or notices for a variety of urban-related causes and centers, such as:

- Urban Center informational flyers.
- Information sheets or flyers on graduate programs in urban geography or urban studies.
- Information on job searches (academic or other urban-related professions).
- Information on urban-related government agencies.
- Information on consulting companies that work in urban-related areas.
- Information on up-coming urban-related conferences or journal special issues.

If you would like to distribute any information at the next workshop during the AAG meeting in New York, please contact Katherine Jones by email at joneska@mail.edu.ecu.

Board Elections

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD MEMBER, 2001-2003 Vote for Three!

RINA GHOSE

I am an Assistant Professor of Geography at Illinois State University. My research interests include Rural and Urban Gentrification, Counterurbanization, Growth Management and Smart Growth Movement, Housing and Public Policy, and New Urbanism, GIS and Society, Public Participation GIS, Role of GIS in Local Government Planning, Societal Implications of Digital Technology. I have authored or co-authored papers in these areas, and my current research includes exploring growth and gentrification of the Rocky Mountains region, and its impacts upon housing and planning policies. I am also involved in research exploring public participation GIS as a means to facilitate citizen participation in the inner city planning process. The UGSG board offers an exciting arena for intellectual exchange. I am interested in serving on the Board as I feel I can contribute to the development of our specialty group. I am particularly interested in breaching the wall that exists between Urban Geographers and GIS Specialists. Many of us are engaged in research questions involving both of these disciplines, yet we are artificially separated. I would encourage sponsoring panels that focus on various research questions within the discipline, and cut across narrow specialty boundaries. As a Geographer, I embrace the diversity of our discipline and would like to see it reflected within the panels sponsored by UGSG at AAG.

BLAKE GUMPRECHT

Blake Gumprecht is a lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Oklahoma specializing in the cultural and historical geography of the U.S. and Canada. Most of his research has focused on urban topics. He has produced studies on the transformation of the Los Angeles River; urban tree planting on the Great Plains; the development of Enid, Oklahoma, as an international grain center; the role of place in the music of three performers from Lubbock, Texas; and liquor-related border settlement in pre-statehood Oklahoma. His first book, *The Los Angeles River: Its Life, Death, and Possible Rebirth*, published in 1999 by the Johns Hopkins University Press, was awarded the J. B. Jackson Prize by the Association of American Geographers. His work has also been published in the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, *Great Plains Quarterly*, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, *Southern California Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Historical Geography*. He has studies forthcoming in *Historical Geography* and a collection on the environmental history of Los Angeles that is to be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. He is presently at work on a book about the American college town.

JAMIE PECK

Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, previously at the University of Manchester, UK. Co-editor of *Antipode* and *Environment & Planning A*, he has research interests in political economy, labor geography,

Candidate Biographies

the politics of economic development, urban and regional restructuring, and employment/welfare policy. Jamie Peck is author of *Work-Place: the social regulation of labor markets* (Guilford, 1996) and *Workfare states*, which will be published by Guilford early in 2001.

MARK PURCELL

Lecturer in geography at the University of Washington. My main research area concerns urban politics. I have worked on such urban issues as: the politics of urban growth, urban social movements, and the restructuring of urban areas under globalization. I have published in journals such as *Urban Geography*, *The Professional Geographer*, *Ecumene*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, and *Political Geography*. My current research concerns the ways in which citizenship is being re-thought and re-made at the urban and regional scales under conditions of global economic restructuring. I am presently co-organizing (with Deborah Martin, Eugene McCann, and Michael Brown) seven sessions for the New York AAGs around the general theme of urban politics. I consider myself first and foremost an urbanist, and I think the fact that the UGSG is organized around a geographical entity (the city) rather than topical specialism lies at the heart of its promise. I would look forward to developing links with other specialty groups whose research intersects the city, but more importantly, I would work to strengthen links and explore shared interests within the UGSG.

KAREN TILL

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota; co-director of the UMN Humanities Institute Space and Place Research Group; participant of the UMN-UW-Madison Center for German and European Studies "Contemporary Germany and the Transatlantic Politics of Memory" Research Collaborative; active in UMN Center for Advanced Feminist Studies. As a scholar who works between the social sciences and humanities, I would bring an interdisciplinary cultural perspective to the UGSG. I also would like to promote interest in Community Service Learning and Participatory Community Action Research for undergraduate and graduate courses in urban geography, and discuss how such pedagogical approaches could enhance one's own research locally.

I am currently working on a book about social memory and national identity in "the new Berlin" (tentatively entitled *Memory in Place*) and on a special issue about the New Urbanism (co-edited with Karen Falconer Al-Hindi) for *Urban Geography*. More general research interests include: cultural politics, national identity, and urban public space; citizenship and urban identity; cultural and historical urban landscapes; memory and place; feminist urban geography; qualitative methods; place-based identity and community politics. Publications include a co-edited volume, *Textures of Place: Rethinking Humanist Geographies* (with Paul Adams and Steven Hoelscher), forthcoming, UMN Press; articles in *Ecumene*, *Geographical Review* (forthcoming), *Historical Geography* (forthcoming), *Society and Space*, *Urban Geography*

Board Elections

Candidate Biographies (cont.)

(forthcoming), and chapters in many edited volumes. I was co-editor of *Historical Geography* (1996-2000), Program Director of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group (1998-2000), and am currently Secretary-Treasurer for Historical Geography Specialty Group. I have been an UGSG member for more than ten years.

ELVIN WYLY

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University. My work examines the links between social inequality, public policy, and housing and labor market processes in United States cities. Specific studies have focused on homeownership policy and housing finance, racial discrimination and redlining, gentrification, labor market segmentation, and feminist perspectives on suburbanization. My work has been sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Fannie Mae Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, and has been published in *The Professional Geographer*, *Economic Geography*, *Urban Geography*, the *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Housing Policy Debate*, and *Cityscape*. In light of the prominent role of urban questions in sponsored research, one of my central concerns is the tension between securing research support and resisting threats to academic freedom associated with the privatization of intellectual property and scholarly inquiry. UGSG provides an important venue for exchange among senior researchers, junior faculty, and graduate students confronting these dilemmas, and I would work to strengthen this role.

CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT MEMBER, 2001-2003

Vote for One!

ALEJANDRO A. ALONSO

Mr. Alonso is a PhD student in the Department of Geography at the University of Southern California (USC). His general research interests are crime and homicide patterns, gangs, race, and concentrated poverty. His dissertation work will focus on the geography of gang injunctions in California where he will expand on some of the previous research he completed in his masters thesis. Some of his research on gangs was developed into a web site at www.streetgangs.com. Last year he served as the president of the Geography Graduate Society at USC. He has also taught Introduction to Human Geography and Introduction to GIS at Santa Monica College for two years before he became a fellowship student at USC. Mr. Alonso has been a member of the Urban Geography Specialty Group (UGSG) since 1997, and was the 2000 UGSG Masters Thesis Award recipient. He has been a consistent participant in the last four AAG meetings. As a student board member he will encourage students to organize sessions, promote the use of GIS within urban research and analyses, and support provisions for student travel funding. He is currently the

treasurer of the GGS at USC and he looks forward to working on the board.

MARGARET HUDSON

Ph.D. Student at the University of Georgia. I am currently developing a dissertation agenda that examines the locational decisions of black-white, interracial couples regarding their family's residence, work-places, recreational spaces, and social spaces. Specifically, my dissertation interests involve exploring how such couples negotiate social interactions in racialized urban terrains and how those interactions may impact their children's racial identities. Broadly, my interests in geography include the social and spatial interactions of urban racial and ethnic groups, the structures and agents of urban residential geographies, and the segmentation of urban labor markets. I have been a geography student now for nearly ten years -- as an undergraduate at Appalachian State University, as an employee and GIS analyst in a regional planning agency, as a Master's student in Geography at the University of Georgia, and currently as a Ph.D. student. As such, I am very interested in the maintenance and growth of our discipline. I currently serve as a graduate student faculty representative in the geography department and as a member of a graduate student sub-committee whose goal is the encouragement, support, and mentoring of undergraduate geography majors. As a student representative to the Urban Geography Specialty Group, I would: extend my service to include the encouragement and facilitation of student involvement in both the AAG and the group, actively participate in conference and paper session organization, and provide advice and contact information for students with questions, ideas, or concerns.

DAVID PRYTHERCH

I am pleased to nominate myself for student representative on the board of the Urban Geography Specialty Group. In my doctoral research (at the University of Arizona) I explore how regionalism and entrepreneurialism are entwined in contemporary Europe, through the case study of Valencia, Spain. I am currently doing fieldwork on how these processes are embodied in the contested planning of Valencia's periphery, the fertile and famed croplands of *la huerta*. The project reflects the interests I might contribute to the board: planning, globalization, urbanization, identity, and international research. In addition to humbly offering my perspective to the board's work, I might continue the productive efforts of past student representatives in the organization of graduate-student workshops and UGSG session sponsorship at the AAG, among others.

**URBAN GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP
BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS
2001**

BALLOT

(To be mailed by January 15, 2001)

BOARD MEMBERS (Vote for three.)

RINA GHOSE _____
BLAKE GUMPRECHT _____
JAMIE PECK _____
MARK PURCELL _____
KAREN TILL _____
ELVIN WYLY _____

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER (Vote for one.)

ALEJANDRO A. ALONSO _____
MARGARET HUDSON _____
DAVID PRYTHERCH _____

Mail to:

Judith Kenny
Department of Geography
472 Bolton Hall
University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Email: **jkenny@csd.uwm.edu**

The digital version of this document was created by the Digitisation team at the
University of Manchester Library, November 2013

University of Manchester Library,
Oxford Rd,
Manchester,
M13 9PP
UK



The University of Manchester