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**Letter from the chair:**

As a new academic year begins and the leaves begin to turn (in this hemisphere, at least), changes are also taking place in our group. Katharyne Mitchell's term as chair ended in the summer and the responsibilities have traveled a short drive north of Seattle, across the border, to Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, where I am based. I want to express my great appreciation for all the work Katharyne has done over the last two years to maintain and enhance the UGSG's position as one of the most prominent and vibrant groups in the AAG. I'm left with big shoes to fill. Fortunately, the role of chair is not an isolated one and, as I am sure Katharyne would agree, the energy and hard work of the UGSG Board is central to the group's success. I particularly want to acknowledge Elvin Wyly. He has provided sterling service for a number of years in the secretary/treasurer position. I was delighted when he agreed to continue this role for a while longer! I'd also like to welcome the following new board members who begin their terms this year: James DeFilippis as vice-chair, Kate Boyer, Caitlin Cahill, Stephanie Campbell, Jim Fraser, and Russ Smith. Another crucial member of the team is Eric Boschmann, editor of this

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**IN CONVERSATION**

**Engaging the urban**  
**By: Daniel Trudeau**

At the 2006 AAG meeting in Chicago, Mona Atia and I organized a panel discussion to consider the ways in which geographers engage the urban. Our discussion was focused on research methods and geared towards uncovering innovations in the sub-discipline. Our hope was to put together a session that highlighted the diverse strategies, techniques, and perspectives that circulate in urban geography. The session was illuminating for me, and for others who attended, I think – the room was buzzing with a discussion about how new connections between theory, ideology, and method are being made by geographers researching the city. I have recently realized, however, that our discussion was silent on an important way geographers engage the urban.

As academic urban geographers, we also engage the urban through teaching. As educators, we encourage students to think about city life geographically. But this also takes a variety of forms. I am interested to know the diverse strategies and techniques that geographers use to engage the urban in their teaching.

Incorporating pedagogical techniques and strategies into the discussion of engaging the urban is important for a couple of reasons. The most obvious is that it can stimulate our development as teachers. But it also contributes to understanding of the ways urban geography is made relevant to students, to scholars, and to communities outside of the university. The latter contribution has particular significance for our specialty group. A couple issues back, Eugene McCann wrote in this newsletter with concern about low levels of participation in the urban geography specialty group. In a subsequent issue, Laura Smith suggested that

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*Letter from the chair ... continued from page 1*

newsletter. Eric is not a board member but his contribution cannot be underestimated and I greatly appreciate his organization, efficiency, and willingness to innovate (e.g., by introducing a series of opinion pieces).

I have been associated with the UGSG in various capacities for a number of years now – I was first a board member in 1998 and subsequently edited the newsletter and have just completed two years as vice-chair. My research interests are in the areas of urban politics and policy, approached from a perspective that tries to productively combine insights from political economy and poststructuralism. I have two main research foci: one is on the ways urban actors interact globally through the transfer of policy knowledge and the consequences of these mobilities on policy, politics, and geographies at various scales; the other seeks to interrogate contemporary definitions of urban livability and quality of life by identifying the spatial, political, social, and economic consequences of defining a city or neighborhood as a 'good place to live.' My undergraduate and graduate teaching also focuses on urban issues. I have always found that involvement in the UGSG –interacting with colleagues, drawing on resources from the website, attending the group's sponsored sessions at the AAG, etc. – has helped me develop my abilities in these areas. I hope you have similar positive experiences as a member of the group and that you will encourage your students to join.

We are already putting together an extensive slate of sponsored sessions for the 2007 AAG meeting in San Francisco and we are very happy to be co-sponsoring another Urban Geography Plenary with the journal, *Urban Geography*. Melissa Wright of Pennsylvania State University has accepted our invitation to give what will undoubtedly be a top-quality plenary address. Board member Jim Fraser will be organizing another UGSG party in San Francisco, following our successful shindig in Chicago. Furthermore, the UGSG will offer its usual very generous set of student awards in the upcoming year. These are:

- Urban Geography Graduate Student Fellowships, 2007**  
Deadline: January 31st, 2007
- Dissertation Competition** Deadline: January 31st, 2007
- Masters Thesis Competition** Deadline: January 31st, 2007
- Student Paper Competition** Deadline, February 15th, 2007
- UGSG Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper Award**  
Deadline, February 15th, 2007
- Student Travel Support AAG-Chicago**  
Deadline, January 31st, 2007

Please share these with your students now and begin thinking about how/what they might submit. Details on all these activities will be provided in future newsletters.

I'm looking forward to a stimulating couple of years as UGSG chair. Please contact me ([emccann@sfu.ca](mailto:emccann@sfu.ca)) or any of the other board members with ideas on how the specialty group can help you and your students get the most out of your involvement with the AAG.

Eugene McCann  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
September, 2006

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[www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/ugsg/](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/ugsg/)

*In Conversation, Trudeau... continued from page 1*

exciting student interest in urban geography is a practical way in which we can address this problem. It therefore seems important to discuss the techniques and strategies we use to stimulate student interest in urban geography.

As a way to contribute to this discussion, I will report on some of the developments I have experienced at Macalester College, where I have just started as a new faculty member this fall. Macalester is located in Saint Paul and the president has formally declared that the college should take advantage of its urban setting in pursuing its liberal arts mission. Discussion at Macalester has considered a variety of approaches to urban engagement. Some have taken it to mean experiential learning in an urban context. Others have directed course projects that support student research on critical issues in the city. And some have taken it to mean establishing a reciprocal relationship between the college and groups in the surrounding community.

There is no consensus on what urban engagement should mean at Macalester, but fortunately there does not need to be. The college provides both material and institutional support for projects that incorporate the city into course curriculum. The college's civic engagement center is incredibly helpful in this regard. The center helps to create and sustain relationships between the college and its community partners. More importantly, however, the center supports the development of curriculum for urban engagement and helps to coordinate the logistics involved with connecting students with the city.

The geography department at Macalester has made use of this support in a variety of ways. Laura Smith has reported in this newsletter about how her Urban GIS class worked with the Federal Reserve Bank to study patterns of mortgage foreclosure. Holly Barcus has partnered with the state historical society to have her GIS methods course create a cartographic history of growth and change of an urban street in Minneapolis. And students in my qualitative methods course are working closely with community organizations to conduct research about how volunteering and community service contribute to urban citizenship.

I have worked closely with the college's civic engagement center in order to integrate field research into the methods course. The students like this because it offers hands-on experience using research methods. By working with community organizations, the project also encourages students to consider how geography is relevant to a broad array of urban issues, including the incorporation of immigrants and refugees, neighborhood development, and AIDS awareness. And because students conduct research over a semester, we are able to participate in an ongoing dialogue that (hopefully) will enrich understanding of geographic concepts, such as place and landscape, and they can be applied to analyze city life.

I encourage others to share their pedagogical approaches to engage the urban. At the very least, this can help us think about different ways in which we as educators can create significant learning experiences for our students. This is an important complement to discussion about the methods we use to research the city. Moreover, I hope that sharing such approaches can also contribute to discussion of how we can find practical ways to excite student interest in urban geography and encourage participation in our specialty group.

*Daniel Trudeau ( [trudeau@macalester.edu](mailto:trudeau@macalester.edu) ) is Assistant Professor of Geography at Macalester College, St. Paul, MN., and a former student member of the Urban Geography Specialty Group Board.*

## **AWARD AND COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Urban Geography Graduate Student Fellowship, 2007**

Each year, the Urban Geography Specialty Group will award one or more fellowships, each approximately \$500, to support urban-oriented doctoral research. Fellowships are intended to provide targeted support at a relatively early stage of doctoral dissertation research – while also ensuring that award recipients have well-developed research proposals that have a high likelihood of completion. Fellowship support may be used for any reasonable expenses associated with a research proposal. Eligibility is limited to current student members of the Urban Geography Specialty Group who will have completed all Ph.D. requirements except the dissertation by the end of the semester or term in which any award is approved. Dissertation supervisors must certify eligibility. Submit applications by email to Eugene McCann, Chair, [emccann@sfu.ca](mailto:emccann@sfu.ca), by **January 31, 2007**. Applications received after this date cannot be considered. Award decisions are made by the Board of the Urban Geography Specialty Group on the basis of the quality and feasibility of the research proposal. Applicants will be informed of the award decisions shortly before the AAG Annual Meeting. Applications are available from the UGSG website, <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/ugsg/>.

### **Dissertation Competition**

The UGSG Dissertation Award Committee solicits submissions of dissertations for the 2006 UGSG Dissertation Award. The winner of the award will receive \$250. The dissertation must have been completed during the 2006 calendar year. Dissertations submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. *Send one copy to each of the two judges:* **James DeFilippis**, Baruch College – CUNY [James\\_DeFilippis@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:James_DeFilippis@baruch.cuny.edu); and **Mary Thomas**, Department of Geography, Ohio State University [thomas.1672@osu.edu](mailto:thomas.1672@osu.edu). **Deadline: January 31st, 2007**

### **Masters Thesis Competition**

The UGSG Masters Thesis Awards Committee solicits submissions of theses for the 2007 UGSG Masters Thesis Award. The winner of the award will receive \$150. The thesis must have been completed during the 2006 calendar. Theses submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. *Send one copy to each of the two judges:* **Kate Boyer**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute [boyerl@rpi.edu](mailto:boyerl@rpi.edu); and **Jason Hackworth**, Department of Geography, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada— [jason.hackworth@utoronto.ca](mailto:jason.hackworth@utoronto.ca). **Deadline: January 31st, 2007**

### **Student Paper Competition**

The Student Paper Competition Committee solicits submissions. 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 San Francisco 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,* **Caitlin Cahill** University of Utah – [caitlin.cahill@csbs.utah.edu](mailto:caitlin.cahill@csbs.utah.edu); and **Eugene McCann**, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. Canada— [emccann@sfu.ca](mailto:emccann@sfu.ca) **Deadline: February 15th, 2007**

### **UGSG Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper Award**

Please encourage your students to consider submitting papers to the Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper competition. 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 2006 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,* **Norma Rantisi**, Department of Geography, Concordia University — [nrantisi@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:nrantisi@alcor.concordia.ca); and **Stephanie Campbell** Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University [sac1@sfu.ca](mailto:sac1@sfu.ca) **Deadline: February 15th, 2007**

### **Student Travel Support**

The UGSG has a small amount of money available to support students presenting on urban topics at the San Francisco AAG. Individual travel awards are \$100, and are intended to support presentations on topics related to the urban focus of the specialty group. To apply, send a short letter stating your degree program, your institutional affiliation, and your goals and purposes in attending the conference. Also include copies of your abstract and conference registration. Send materials to **Elvin Wyly**, UGSG Treasurer, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, 1984 West Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2 Canada. Email submissions may be sent to [ewyly@geog.ubc.ca](mailto:ewyly@geog.ubc.ca). The **deadline** for receipt of applications is **January 31, 2007**, and awards will be announced as soon as possible thereafter.

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FACULTY POSITION  
**CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING**  
**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

The City and Regional Planning Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology seeks to fill one or more tenure-track positions that will contribute substantively to our mission to be the national leader in education and research on planning for sustainable cities and regions. We seek candidates who will demonstrate research depth in one or more substantive areas that relate to planning for a diverse population in a fast-growing, dynamic region, as well as to planning and urban and regional scholarship that furthers sustainable development within increasingly globalized systems. A Ph.D. in planning, public policy, urban studies or related field is required. We particularly encourage candidates who can increase the diversity of our faculty. The position(s) rank is at the assistant or associate level and will begin in August 2007, or as otherwise negotiated. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

The City and Regional Planning Program currently has 11 faculty members and a student body of approximately 100 masters and 20 Ph.D. students. We offer specializations in economic development, land and community development, urban design, environmental planning, geographic information systems, land use, and transportation planning. We also offer dual degree programs in public policy, urban design, transportation, environmental management, and law.

The City and Regional Planning Program, the College of Architecture, Georgia Tech and the Atlanta metropolitan area present unique and exciting opportunities to faculty, including an expanding curriculum and research program along with opportunities for outstanding research funding and senior faculty mentoring. The program is home to the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Planning faculty are the directors of the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development and the Center for Geographic Information Systems. Georgia Tech is ranked among the top 10 public universities in the nation and seeks to advance society toward a proper, fair, and sustainable future.

As part of a metropolitan region of over four million inhabitants that has had unparalleled recent growth in residential, commercial, and office development, Atlanta offers a wide range of urban, cultural and historic amenities. At the same time, located in the Appalachian Foothills at an elevation of 1,000 feet, the City has a temperate climate that is ideal for outdoor activities year-round. Mountain and coastal recreational opportunities are within easy driving distance. With a leading international airport, the city offers ready access to locations across the country and throughout the world.

Applicants should forward hard copies of their curriculum vitae; at least two samples of publications or reports; a list of three references with contact information; and a statement of teaching, professional, research, and service interests to Dr. Nancey Green Leigh and Dr. Dan W. Immergluck, Search Committee Co-Chairs, in care of Ms. Debra J. Jones, at:

City and Regional Planning Program  
College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0155  
(Fax: 404-894-1628)

In addition, we would like to receive electronic copies of the CV and Statement of Interests, along with any cover letter, in pdf format to: [nleigh@coa.gatech.edu](mailto:nleigh@coa.gatech.edu).

**Formal review of applications will begin November 1, 2006.**

The position(s) will remain open until filled.

The **Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia University** is seeking applicants for a position in **Environmental Impact Assessment**. An ability to teach undergraduate and graduate courses from a range of relevant fields (including land use planning, resource analysis, remote sensing, environmental management and GIS) will be an asset. The successful applicant is expected to develop their own research agenda, to contribute to the department's new MSc program in Geography, Urban and Environmental Studies, and its graduate Diploma in Environmental Impact Assessment. Additional information about the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment can be seen at [www.gpe.concordia.ca](http://www.gpe.concordia.ca)

Subject to budgetary approval, we anticipate filling this position, normally at the rank of Assistant Professor, for July 1, 2007. Please forward all applications and questions to the department contact listed. Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2006 and will continue until the position is filled.

Applicants must have a PhD. Applications should consist of a letter of intent, a curriculum vitae, copies of recent publications, a statement of teaching interests, copies of recent teaching evaluations, a statement of research achievements and objectives, and three letters of reference. French proficiency is an asset. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Concordia University is committed to employment equity. Additional information about Concordia University can be found at: <http://artsandscience1.concordia.ca/>. Contact: Dr A. Nash, Chair, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3G 1M8, Email:[nash@vax2.concordia.ca](mailto:nash@vax2.concordia.ca)

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- **Joe Scarpaci** (Virginia Tech) held a Senior Fulbright lectureship in Montevideo, Uruguay at the School of Architecture, ORT Uruguay university this past May. He is interested in talking with other urban geographers who have been teaching urban- and planning-based courses in primarily architecture schools in Latin America and the Caribbean ([scarp@vt.edu](mailto:scarp@vt.edu)).
- New books from **Michel S. Laguerre**: *The Digital City: The American Metropolis and Information Technology*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2006; and *Diaspora, Politics and Globalization*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2006.
- Website of interest: **[www.plannersnetwork.org](http://www.plannersnetwork.org)** *Planners Network* is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems.

**SUBMITTED CALLS FOR PAPERS FOR THE AAG MEETING, 17-21 APRIL, 2007, SAN FRANCISCO****WAR, WORKERS, AND WORKPLACES**

New security measures introduced over the past five years have transformed countless workplaces. Hotel workers are increasingly subject to biometric surveillance with their personal histories and current movements monitored by transnational corporate employers. Transportation workers have seen some of the most dramatic shifts in their everyday working lives in the context of the national securitization of mass movement. They have challenged the institutionalization of racial profiling and crackdowns on undocumented migrants in their ranks, the trespass of their privacy rights, and a sustained attack on job security. Labour actions by port workers were deemed a security threat when the US administration invoked the Taft-Hartley Act. Border guards have been armed with new weapons and seen their numbers increase rapidly, while they fight government attempts to casualize their work. A teachers union has been dubbed a 'terrorist organization' for asserting the right to collective bargaining. Undocumented migrant workers have been subject to increasingly frequent deportations and more punitive policies in the name of national security.

These contemporary cases would suggest a simple relationship between national and economic security - war and securitization have largely fostered the casualization of work and an attack on workers and organized labour. But we can complicate this picture if we consider historical examples or if we look at exceptional forms of work today.

Historically, exceptional moments of crisis like war have allowed labouring citizens to make forceful political claims and institutionalize new forms of entitlement. Mid-century mass war, for example, fostered the expansion of social entitlements through the nationalization and collectivization of identities and economies. In many countries, suffrage for minoritized groups including women and people of colour was 'earned' through war work. War has been productive occasion for political and economic 'innovation'. Social technologies, disciplines, and industrial practices have repeatedly spread from the military and wartime industry to reshape civilian work. Taylorism, Fordism, welfarism, and neoliberalism are all intimately entangled with war, and entire fields of work have been regulated and re-regulated for national war efforts. This includes the more obvious examples of heavy industry and munitions, but less clearly militarized forms of work too. For example, in many places, the historical geography of sex trade work can only be understood through a military history. The gendering and racialization of civilian and military work is deeply tied to war. Rosie the Riveter is an obvious but still important historical trope of the radical change in gendering of work at wartime.

There are also contemporary forms of work that complicate simple narratives of security. Soldiers may indeed see their immediate bodily insecurity intensify today, but countless national governments have enhanced the material and socio-cultural rewards of war work. Meanwhile, a new 'international division of labour' is painfully evident in the rise of private military companies and the work of mercenaries.

This session invites papers that consider the intersections of war and work. Contemporary and historical investigations that complicate our understanding of war, workers and workplaces are particularly welcome.

Topics might include:

- Theorizing collective security in relation to war and work
- Bridging labour studies and critical security studies
- The racialization of work through war
- Social and national security

- Biometrics in the workplace
- Mobility and security
- Militarized workplaces
- Precarity
- Security and the City
- Gendered workplace 'insecurity'
- Nationalization and casualization
- Border security as a labour issue
- The military as a workplace
- Organized labour and security policy
- Fear at work

Please send expressions of interest to Deborah Cowen, division of Social Sciences, York University [dcowen@yorku.ca](mailto:dcowen@yorku.ca) before October 15, 2006.

Please note: If the union boycott of the San Francisco Hilton remains in effect in time for the annual meeting, the session(s) on War, Workers, and Workplaces will be moved to an alternate venue or cancelled.

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## IMPROVING THE MOBILITY OF CHILDREN

*Session sponsored by Transport Geography Specialty Group (TGSG), Urban Geography Specialty Group (UGSG), Applied Geography Specialty Group (AGSG), Disability Specialty Group (DSG), and Environmental Perception and Behavioral Geography (EPBG) Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers*

In car-oriented cultures the mobility of children has seriously declined, with major impacts for both them and their families. Children are at risk from lack of safe pedestrian and bicycle travel in auto-dominated transport systems, as well as suffering from the air pollution produced by these systems. Families with children face tremendous transport challenges as children often have to be driven everywhere: to schools, after-school activities, day-care, friends' homes, recreation locations, etc. Through an excessive propensity by adults to drive, children are exposed to values that will increase the difficulty of achieving sustainable transport systems which are based on trips by walking, cycling and transit. This session is intended to stimulate research on children's transportation for the present and in the future. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Spatial aspects of children's mobility
- Land use patterns and their role in school transportation
- Strategies for promoting alternative modes to reduce car use for trips to school
- Children's independent mobility and accessibility to recreation and other facilities, and resulting impacts on health and quality of life
- The effect of parental lifestyle and family structure on children's mobility
- Restrictions on children's independent mobility at different stages of development
- Regarding children as experts in transport planning
- Programs to improve the safety of walking and cycling by children
- Effect of transport-related air pollution on children
- The impact of automobile-dominated cities on children and parents with disabilities

Send an abstract of no more than 250 words and your personal identification numbers (received from the AAG after applying online at [www.aag.org](http://www.aag.org)) to **Selima Sultana by October 20, 2006**:

**Selima Sultana**, Department of Geography, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC 27402, E-mail: [s\\_sultan@uncg.edu](mailto:s_sultan@uncg.edu), Phone: (336) 334-3895.

**Barry Wellar**, Department of Geography, University of Ottawa, Ottawa ON K1N 6N5, Email: [wellarb@uottawa.ca](mailto:wellarb@uottawa.ca)

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## **QUAYS TO THE CITY: CRITICAL ANALYSES OF URBAN WATERFRONT TRANSFORMATIONS**

Urban waterfronts around the world continue to change. During the last four decades, interacting local and global actors have transformed many of these waterfronts where shipping and industry dominated into spaces for residential and commercial and leisure activities. Shifting urban political economies, global mega-events, environmental issues and associated societal relationships with nature, the ambitions of local communities, and the ebbs and flows of civil society action have all played key roles in defining and producing these transformations. It is important for theoretical and empirical research to examine, explain, and inform waterfront transformations, including the ways in which these transformations articulate with the broader political economies and ecologies of cities and urban change.

Papers in this session will take critical approaches to the historical and contemporary transformations of urban waterfronts. Paper topics may examine themes such as: nature-society relationships on the waterfront; new governance regimes and mechanisms in urban waterfront development; the politics and planning of urban waterfronts; historical and environmental geographies of urban waterfront development; transformations in labour practices and social inclusion/exclusion; the role of social movements in shaping and contesting waterfront configurations; regional economic impacts of waterfront transformations; the impacts of mega-events, and the broader political economy and cultural politics shaping the revitalization, regeneration, and reproduction of urban waterfronts.

Please send your title and abstract, written according to the AAG's abstract instructions available at [www.aag.org/annualmeetings/SF2007/abstract.cfm](http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/SF2007/abstract.cfm), to one of the organizers below by October 5. Further information will follow thereafter regarding submitting abstracts directly to the AAG.

Contacts:

Gene Desfor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada,  
[desfor@yorku.ca](mailto:desfor@yorku.ca)

Tuna Tasan-Kok, Catholic University of Leuven, Department of Architecture, Urban Design and Planning. Leuven, Belgium, [tuna.tasankok@asro.kuleuven.be](mailto:tuna.tasankok@asro.kuleuven.be)

Jennefer Laidley, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada, [jlaidley@yorku.ca](mailto:jlaidley@yorku.ca)

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## **APPLIED TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Following the very successful precedents set at previous AAG conferences, including AAG 2006 in Chicago, a session on Applied Transportation Research Projects (ATRP) is being organized for AAG 2007 in San Francisco. Co-sponsors of the ATRP session are the Urban Geography Specialty Group

(UGSG), the Applied Geography Specialty Group (AGSG), the Transportation Geography Specialty Group (TGSG), and the Economic Geography Specialty Group (EGSG).

Two primary objectives of the ATRP session are to identify: 1) geographers engaged in client-driven, applied transportation research and implementation projects; and 2) the geographic aspects of research issues, problems, questions, approaches, etc. underlying the projects.

Presentations are invited for recently-completed as well as in-process and impending projects. Topics to be covered include:

1. Funding agency.
2. Project terms of reference.
3. Research methods and techniques used to undertake the project.
4. Spatial aspect(s) of the project.

The organizer of the session is Dr. Barry Wellar, Professor (ret.), Department of Geography, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, K1N 6N5. Potential participants are invited to send their abstracts as soon as possible to: [wellarb@uottawa.ca](mailto:wellarb@uottawa.ca).

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## LANDSCAPES OF FLEXIBILITY

Organisers: Stefan Buzar, University of Oxford ([stefan.buzar@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stefan.buzar@chch.ox.ac.uk)) and Marianna Pavlovskaya, Hunter College - CUNY ([mpavlov@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:mpavlov@hunter.cuny.edu))

*Sponsored by: Urban Geography; Geographical Perspectives on Women; Economic Geography specialty groups*

The regimes of "flexible specialisation" and "flexible accumulation" have emerged in the context of capitalist globalisation and technological advances in information and communications. Economic, social, and control networks span continents, while flows of bodies, goods, capital, and information connect and transform places across the globe. These contradictory developments have been accompanied by the "flexibilisation" of production processes, work and employment, citizenship, international regulations, regional and local economies, education and leisure, as well as the emergence of the "flexible bodies" (to use Emily Martin's words) and "flexible households" and family arrangements. The growing perception of the body as adaptable and fluid has been mirrored by analogous developments at the level of home and building design.

Despite its presence in such a wide variety of scales and contexts, the notion of "flexibility" per se remains under-theorised within geography. It remains unclear how different social agents - individuals, households, agencies, firms, institutions, buildings, money - shape space and place by being or becoming "flexible"; in other words, "possessing or acquiring the ability to quickly respond to changed external circumstances". Although some of the key geographical implications of flexible accumulation have received attention within the literature (e.g. work by David Harvey), the kinds of spatial orderings and relations that might arise as a result of the joint flexibilisation of economy, work, employment, households, bodies, demography, culture, architecture, etc. remain open to investigation.

Expanding on some of the ideas about the "flexible household" and social reproduction from the last year's AAG, this session seeks to explore the multiple ways in which human and non-human agents articulate flexibility in space. We welcome papers that explore the territorial networks, paths and patterns associated with the rise of adaptable and elastic behaviours.

Research with a geographical focus outside North America and/or Western Europe is particularly welcome, as the socio-spatial implications of flexibility in such contexts have been especially overlooked.

Papers could deal with any one the following topics:

- + a critical view of mainstream conceptualisations of flexibility;
- + emerging spaces of flexibility;
- + the socio-spatial reproduction of flexibility through everyday life;
- + regimes and modes of territorial organisation associated with flexible work, local economic development, household behaviour, etc.
- + urban socio-economic "flexibilisation" as a process; "flexible urbanism" as a concept
- + contradictions of flexibility
- + technology and flexible cities
- + what does urban flexibility mean to different groups of actors?
- + how does flexibility interact with class, gender, and race?

Papers on other related topics are also welcome. Please contact Stefan Buzar [stefan.buzar@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stefan.buzar@chch.ox.ac.uk) or Marianna Pavlovskaya [mpavlov@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:mpavlov@hunter.cuny.edu) if you are interested in giving a paper.

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## **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: MAKING THE CONNECTIONS**

Convenors: Tracey Skelton, Loughborough University, UK & Caitlin Cahill, University of Utah, USA

These two sessions are designed to bring together geographers and social scientists who have a focus on children/ young people, and environmental /social justice. The central aim is to consider the various ways in which processes of social and environmental justice have either marginalised children and young people, or directly engaged with this particular social grouping. However, even where children are included in campaigns, activities, developments and/or initiatives related to the environment and/or social justice, such 'inclusion' is often done from an adultist perspective. What does a youth perspective contribute to social and environmental justice movements? These concerns are critical to our understanding of young people's role in broader debates around activism, participation, and globalization.

Children and young people experience, and are affected by, social, cultural, economic, political and environmental changes in different ways to adults. Their lived geographies often take them into different environments (social/urban/ or natural) from those that adults enter, but also, even when with adults, children and young people often utilise, experience and imagine these environments in different ways. Children and young people often feel the loss and destruction of cultures, social structures and environments very keenly and lose the security of spaces within which to map and play out their childhoods. Hence environmental change, exclusion and destruction have a profound effect on social justice and vice versa. For example, this can become particularly acute at times of natural disasters when children are extremely vulnerable during a disaster and in the post-disaster processes of 'recovery'. The inequalities which pre-exist natural disasters are invariably exacerbated afterwards and children are often pushed into deeper states of insecurity. Similarly, urban restructuring dramatically disrupts the everyday experiences of young people in their neighbourhood public spaces, and delimits access to public education and affordable housing.

Interestingly, while the protection of natural environments is often linked to social justice, and rhetoric invariably talks of 'saving' the environment for 'the children,' discourses surrounding the urban

environment focus instead on keeping youth off the streets and saving them from 'bad' neighbourhoods. This session will interrogate these assumptions and examine the following questions, among others:

- \* To what extent are children and young people active social participants in fights for social justice?
- \* To what extent are children and young people active social participants in struggles related to the natural and urban environment?
- \* In what ways do intersections of race/class/sexuality/gender/ethnicity inform social and environmental justice movements and the youth who choose to participate?
- \* In what ways are children and young people included as part of the theoretical, cultural and political conceptualisations of environmental and social justice? And how might they be?
- \* What is the role of youth in reproducing and resisting urban restructuring?
- \* In what ways does environmental neglect (natural/urban) impact upon young people's and children's lives and how is this related to social justice?
- \* What happens to children, young people and social justice in the context of natural and human-made (i.e. terrorist/state etc.) disasters?
- \* Is it possible to challenge adultist perspectives around environmental and social justice? What does a youth perspective contribute?

This session seeks papers which focus on children and young people and which critically examine the ways in which social power is played out through the wider contexts of social and environmental justice. The focus should also broaden out beyond children and young people to include the family, households, inter-generational relations and gender relations.

Please send abstracts for consideration by October 9th to both Tracey and Caitlin  
[t.i.skelton@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:t.i.skelton@lboro.ac.uk) and [caitlin.cahill@csbs.utah.edu](mailto:caitlin.cahill@csbs.utah.edu)

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## THEORIZING URBAN GOVERNANCE

We invite your participation in a session (or sessions) on (re)theorizing urban governance at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco (April 17-21, 2007). Processes of urban revitalization in city neighborhoods and downtown business districts have foregrounded questions of who governs, who benefits, who participates in decision-making, and through what institutional structures and mechanisms this occurs. These questions, in turn, focus attention on the need to (re)theorize urban governance, with particular emphasis on the emergence of new multiscalar and multi-institutional arrangements in which states, markets, and civil society form "complex relations of reciprocal interdependence" (Jessop, 2002). We welcome papers, whether empirical or theoretical, that examine new forms of urban governance that build on and move beyond received notions of neoliberalism, market hegemony, urban entrepreneurialism, and urban growth coalitions.

Topics might include but are not limited to the following:

- How have the lines separating state, market, and civil society become blurred, and how can we theorize these "relations of reciprocal interdependence" beyond simple one-way notions of state off-loading of responsibilities onto other sectors and institutions?
- What factors shape the ways in which civil society engages with state and market sectors in enacting the politics of urban development and redevelopment?
- How does multiscalar and multi-institutional urban governance take place?

- What are the ties that bind multiscalar and multi-institutional coalitions in the process of urban governance, and what work gets done to hold them together, contest them, or re-align them?
- What mechanisms allow individual actors to move within and across traditionally discrete state, market, and civil society sectors, and how does this fluidity affect urban governance?
- How do philanthropic entities insert themselves into, and influence, the politics of city building?
- What are the rhetorical, discursive, or symbolic devices that characterize, challenge, or legitimate emergent forms of urban governance, and what are the effects of their mobilization?
- What is the role of law (legislative enactments and judicial decisions) in delineating the boundaries between and the interactions among state, market, and civil society institutions; how can law be understood as both the medium and the outcome of urban governance?

Please contact Jim Fraser ([pavement@unc.edu](mailto:pavement@unc.edu)) or Bob Lake ([rlake@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:rlake@rci.rutgers.edu)) with an outline or abstract of your paper if you are interested.

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### **RACIALIZED PLACES, RACIALIZED BODIES: THE IMPACT OF RACIALIZATION ON INDIVIDUAL AND PLACE IDENTITIES**

Race and racism are central features in the construction of North American urban geographies. Accordingly geographers have focused attention on processes of racialization as they relate to the construction of place and individual identities. This session seeks to explore further the connections between the construction of space and race through an interrogation of the ways in which space and place are implicated in the production and solidification of individual racialized identities. We also are interested in research that examines the patterns, processes, and/or consequences associated with the production of racialized spaces. We invite contributions that draw from a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches currently deployed in exploring the construction of both racialized landscapes and individual identities. A primary goal of this organized session is to assist in networking and connecting individuals who are engaged in research on race and place and to contribute to existing conversations across multiple disciplines regarding these topics. Please feel free to contact Joshua Inwood: [jinwood@uga.edu](mailto:jinwood@uga.edu) or Dr. Robert Yarbrough: [ryarbrough@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ryarbrough@georgiasouthern.edu) with any questions. As the AAG deadline is Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, we would like a copy of your abstract by October 19<sup>th</sup> to enable us to organize the session.

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### **SPACES OF VERNACULAR CREATIVITY**

Session organisers: Steve Millington, Tim Edensor (Manchester Metropolitan University), Deborah Leslie (University of Toronto), and Norma Rantisi (Concordia University)

Whilst it is recognised that Florida's (2002) notion of the "creative class" is an exceedingly powerful idea driving the nature of cultural policy, the use of culture as the basis of state-led community development strategies is highly problematical (Gibson & Kong, 2005). The "creative class" and much of the substance of cultural policy is often based on the deployment in urban space of a particular set of aesthetic markers of social difference, which are frequently interconnected with exclusive middle class forms of cultural capital or the appropriation and valorisation of selective working class cultural practices and forms.

Furthermore, the propensity of cultural regeneration strategies to fetishize particular and aestheticised spaces production and consumption, such as the gentrified urban centre or bohemian cultural cluster, serves only to promote and reproduce spatial inequalities in the geography of artistic and creative production.

Widespread access to tools of creative practice and the growth of domestic creativity afforded through new technologies and communication networks is increasing the potential for new forms of creativity, whereby practices might emerge across a range of sites and locales. Cultural policy, however, hardly acknowledges everyday spaces of creative practice, such as dispersed spaces of production and performance, decentralized neighbourhoods, small towns, rural landscapes, interstitial realms, or "community embedded artistic spaces" (Markusen, 2006). Rather, the vernacular realm is often dismissed as the banal opposite of the bohemian cultural milieu, a place where creativity is seen as abject, marginal or even resistant to sustained urban development.

Through this call for papers, we seek to move cultural policy beyond the instrumental recuperation of "art" as an economic resource in urban regeneration and place marketing, towards a more reflective and inclusive position regarding the value of everyday or vernacular forms of creativity. We aim to bring together a diverse and interdisciplinary range of empirical research focussed upon wider forms of creative practice embedded within everyday and marginal spaces of non-professional, original artistic production. We also want to expand notions of what constitutes creativity. In addition, we ask for greater consideration of how interscalar flows, relations and social dynamics can connect the vernacular to wider and global networks of cultural and economic activity. Further, we aim to explore the temporal dimensions of the vernacular creativity through accounts how the ritualistic or festive use of everyday space provides a framework for artistic or original production. By accounting for a broader spatial distribution of creativity, the development of cultural policy, therefore, could move beyond a normative economic framework towards more holistic, diverse and socially inclusive cultural led strategies.

We would particularly welcome papers which address the following:

- \* Domestic creativity e.g. gardens, creative writing, music production, amateur photography, home-movies, modified car-culture, and other forms of customisation
- \* Decentralised neighbourhood and community spaces of creative production e.g. suburban poetry and writing circles, amateur dramatics, horticultural shows, beer and 'folk' festivals, creative food networks, community halls, parks
- \* Networked forms of everyday creative practice e.g. blog culture
- \* Small town and rural creativity e.g. in contradistinction to city centre practices
- \* Ritualistic and festive creative practices e.g. fetes, festivals, parades, seasonal and religious celebrations
- \* Marginal and temporary uses space e.g. unsanctioned public art, graffiti, use of open space.

Please direct expressions of interest, or send a 250 word abstract to Steve Millington - [s.millington@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:s.millington@mmu.ac.uk)

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CFP

### **2007 4th International Conference of the Research Network: Private urban governance & gated communities**

**Call for proposals: *Private Urban Governance : Production of urban spaces, interactions of public and private actors, sustainability of cities***

**5-8 June 2007**

**Paris, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne**

**Conference website: <http://www.gated-communities.de>**

Following the successful international symposium on Territory, Control and Enclosure held in Pretoria in February 2005, the next conference in the biennial series of the international research network Private Urban Governance & Gated Communities (which started in Hamburg in 1999) will be hosted in Paris, in the week 5-8 June 2007, at the University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne.

Authors are invited to submit papers with the following emphases:

- historical and cultural analyses that help develop an understanding of the significance and nature of private urban governance in the long-term shaping of cities.
- the nature of formal public-private partnerships, including an analysis of how partnership forms of urban governance are framed by different social and national contexts and how they shape territory
- the regulation of private urban government, including self regulation, state regulation, private dispute resolution
- sustainability issues, including the idea that private urban governance might well be a locally sustainable urban solution, stabilising the financing of urban growth and the redevelopment of aging neighborhoods; maintaining social diversity; conserving non-renewable urban resources; and encouraging reinvestment in urban infrastructure
- impacts and spill-over effects of privately governed territory on other parts of the urban system, including social cohesion effects, local spill-overs of crime diversion, systemic spill-overs of traffic diversion, fear and so on.

The conference aims, therefore, to address several cross-cutting P.U.G. issues and to encourage multidisciplinary debate (notably geography, economics, sociology, history, political sciences, law). It will also provide a forum for discussing operational issues of concern to planners and policy makers. **For more details: <http://www.gated-communities.de>**

#### UGSG Membership Information

- **UGSG Membership:** \$7 with AAG membership; student membership is free.
- **Address and e-mail changes** of UGSG members should be sent to: [address@aaq.org](mailto:address@aaq.org), where a master membership list is maintained.
- To subscribe to URBGEOG, the UGSG's **discussion forum and listserv**, follow these instructions: [1] Send an e-mail message to [listserv@listserv.arizona.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.arizona.edu) with no subject line, and include the following message, with appropriate name changes: **subscribe urbgeog *firstname lastname***
- [2] Make sure to disable automatic e-mail signature functions [3] You will be sent an automated message that provides information on how to post to the list and how to unsubscribe, etc.
- Calls for submission and notifications of availability of the Newsletter are e-mailed to both the listserv and Specialty Group membership list. Distribution of the Newsletter is via the UGSG website. This Newsletter is currently published 3 times per year.