

**Letter from the Chair:**

This is my first newsletter as the Chair of the Urban Geography Specialty Group, and I am very excited to be in this position. I should first acknowledge Eugene McCann's work as the Chair for the last two years. His work in leading the specialty group has been excellent, and I find myself in the enviable position of taking over a research group that is in very good shape. I also find myself surrounded by an outstanding board of both continuing board members and newly appointed ones. There is a lot of both new energy and institutional memory to draw upon – which makes my job a fairly easy one. Particularly of note is Eric Boschmann who has graciously agreed to continue editing the Newsletter, despite having done it for a number of years, and moving on to the University of Denver. Also, Jim Fraser's agreeing to move from board member to Treasurer will make things flow more smoothly as well.

I also find the contemporary world to be perhaps more interesting and remarkable than it has been for quite some time. The crisis in capital markets – rooted in housing finance – has, because of its magnitude forced (back) onto the debate in the dominant American public sphere basic questions that would have seemed unthinkable as recently as this past January. Questions about the nature of housing and home; the characteristics of global capital markets and how they intersect with neighborhoods; and the relationship between capital and the state are – if sometimes indirectly and implicitly – all being discussed. Urban geographers have long contributed a great deal to making sense of these, and similar, questions. There are, in short, an almost limitless number of “teachable moments” for us, and a comparable number of ways in which our research can inform understandings of these issues (and enable us to participate in responses to these crises – and, perhaps, help create ways of living and working that are less prone to such crises).

With all this said, the more immediate concern for the UGSG is the 2009 conference in Las Vegas this coming spring. We have already received many requests for sponsorship of paper and panel sessions, and we welcome more such requests (please send them directly to me). Also, the UGSG is happily co-sponsoring, with the journal *Urban Geography* this year's Urban Geography Plenary Lecture, which will be given by AbdouMaliq Simone of Goldsmiths, University of London. It should be an excellent presentation and discussion.

I am looking forward to working with the UGSG members of the next couple of years. If you have any questions or comments about the UGSG and the work that we currently do, or might do in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jdefilip@rutgers.edu](mailto:jdefilip@rutgers.edu), or any of the other board members.

Best wishes,

James DeFilippis  
Brooklyn, NY  
September, 2008

**Inside This Issue:**

AAG Las Vegas CFPs	3 – 8
People, News, Publications, Announcements	9 – 12

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**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@aag.org](mailto:address@aag.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.

**UGSG Website:** <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~ewyly/ugsg.html>

**Call For Papers**  
**Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting**  
**22-27 March 2009**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**

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***Immigration, Integration, and Multiple Economies***

Immigrants engage in diverse economic practices and develop various strategies to organize their everyday life in urban environments and integrate into the economy. Economic integration is not a linear or uni-dimensional process. Immigrants develop various formal and informal strategies to cope with their new environments and earn a living. These experiences are influenced by gender, race, ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics. They are also linked to local places where immigrants reside and opportunities are defined. The economic activities in which immigrants engage to make ends meet, in turn, affect both place and belonging.

In order to understand these processes, we need to rethink the economy to include formal and informal activities, as well as monetary and nonmonetary transactions, in both public and private spheres. While some transactions are market-based, a large share of daily economic activities undertaken by immigrants does not reflect market relations. This session will investigate the multiple economies that immigrants to urban areas of North America and Europe navigate. Potential topics include informal economies, day labor, access to banks, household economies, the role of social networks, community-based organizations, and service providers.

Organizer: Pascale Joassart-Marcelli, Department of Geography, San Diego State University, [pmarcell@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:pmarcell@mail.sdsu.edu)

Please email 250-word paper abstracts to [pmarcell@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:pmarcell@mail.sdsu.edu) by Friday October 10, 2008.

***Geographies at the Margins: Interrogating Borders in South Asia***

The phenomenon of nation-states is relatively new particularly in reference to South Asia. The dismantlement of the British Empire in India saw the birth of several nation-states such as India, Pakistan and later, Bangladesh. It was argued that the natural borders that lay between communities (Hindus and Muslims) could not be reconciled and thus, physical boundaries were necessary to separate the areas where the majority religion prevailed. Borders have become particularly sensitive in the subcontinent be it the partition boundaries or those with states such as Nepal, Burma or even Bhutan. In South Asia today, it is not just the physical borders between countries that are highly charged, but the ideological, social and economic borders that separate communities within each country itself.

We are interested in papers that interrogate these borders between communities and/or countries in South Asia. To this end, the definition of borders remains broad with the hope that

authors will be able to not only discuss the geographies that are constructed or negotiated by communities living on the borders of countries, but also geographies that are created or negotiated by those living in other spatial margins such as those of cities or localities within cities.

To present a paper you must do the following before October 1, 2008:

1. Compose an abstract following the AAG guidelines
2. Register online with the AAG to obtain a personal ID number
3. Email Presenter Identification Number (PIN) and abstract before October 1, 2008 to Romola Sanyal: [romola.sanyal@rice.edu](mailto:romola.sanyal@rice.edu) or Jason Cons [jc162@cornell.edu](mailto:jc162@cornell.edu)

### ***Diverse perspectives on spatial restrictions and mobility to work***

People's mobility, or access to employment, in the context of the spatial entrapment and spatial mismatch hypotheses has an extensive research history. On-going and new research in this area is important as postmodern critique argues that: [1] the intersection of gender, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status and space allows better understanding of different sub-populations' ability to travel to work or access jobs; [2] multiple realities necessitate the use of diverse methodological approaches in research; and [3] cities are more geographically complex and fragmented warranting conceptualizations, which move beyond central-city vs. suburb spatial generalizations. Furthermore, cities and society continue to undergo dynamic structural changes affecting mobility to work opportunities.

To highlight the diversity of knowledge constructed from different approaches, this session seeks research papers that address issues of employment access and mobility, using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method techniques.

Interested authors are invited to submit their paper titles, abstracts (of no more than 250 words) and presenter identification number (PIN) to one of the session organizers by October 10, 2008.

Session organized by: Melanie Rapino, [marapino@memphis.edu](mailto:marapino@memphis.edu) and Eric Boschmann, [eric.boschmann@du.edu](mailto:eric.boschmann@du.edu)

Sponsored by: Urban Geography Specialty Group; Transport Geography Specialty Group; Economic Geography Specialty Group

### ***Power, Social Justice and the Creative City***

This session explores the social justice implications of the recent turn towards creative city policy in many cities in North America, Europe and elsewhere. Following Peck (2005) and Rantisi et. al. (2006), we note the under-theorization of social justice in relation to the creative city. This CFP therefore seeks papers that explore the place of power, inequality and hierarchy in the making of creative cities.

We envision one panel discussion and at least one paper session on this topic. Contributors to the paper session are invited to present theoretical and empirical papers on social justice in the creative city. We are particularly interested in showcasing the diversity of critical positions that could be taken with regards to this topic.

Possible themes include but are not limited to:

- Labour market segmentation in the creative city
- The politics of creative districts
- Sexuality and gender in the creative city
- Racism and imperialism in the creative city
- Poverty and displacement in the creative city
- The politics of 'talent' in the creative economy
- The 'creative city' as panacea to social issues
- Hierarchies and inequalities within the creative class
- Placing the 'non-creative' in the creative city
- Risk, securitization and surveillance in the creative city
- Formations of the creative subject
- Social justice in Richard Florida's work
- Policy mobilities of the creative city script
- Ethics and the creative economy

Special Session Organizers: JP Catungal and Deborah Leslie

Please send 250-word abstracts to JP Catungal ([catungalj@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:catungalj@geog.utoronto.ca)) by Oct. 8, 2009.

Sponsorships: Urban Geography Specialty Group, Economic Geography Specialty Group

### ***Seeking Democratic Alternatives to the Neoliberal State: Geographies of Grassroots Democracy and Community Resistance to Neoliberalism.***

DeFilippis et al. note the concept of community has a “central place in capitalist political economies” as communities are “vital area[s] for social change [and also] arenas that are constrained in their capacities to host such efforts (DeFilippis et al. 2006: 674). On the one hand urban governments have turned to a neoliberal logic of community—a logic that offers up an unwavering belief in market forces, has reduced or eliminated social services for the economically marginalized, reduced government regulation and provided a vision of community which focuses on individual competition and pits street against street, block against

block, and community against community—in an effort to ‘redevelop’ urban areas. On the other hand grassroots democratic organizations deploy an understanding of community which celebrates and relies on collective action and resistance to neoliberal logics of community. Activists engage with and deploy concepts of community which stand as powerful counterpoints to the elimination of social services and are working to find alternatives to neoliberal economic and government schemes. Even so, while communities are expected to take on more responsibilities for their own economic and social well-being and pool efforts to mobilize and take action, many often lack the capacity to meet the obligations that come with devolution.

Seeking a wide variety of theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding grassroots democratic resistance to neoliberalism this call for papers is open to both activists and scholars who are engaging with questions of neoliberalism, community, and/or grassroots democracy. Some questions for consideration include, but are not limited to:

- 1.) *How do communities form and collectively resist their incorporation into plans and structures of community governance under neoliberalism?*
- 2.) *How can state actors produce “geographies of political and economic equity” (Herbert 2005: 862) and can government designs also engage communities to counteract their further neoliberalization?*
- 3.) *Can communities effectively seek democratic alternatives to their neoliberalization, if so, then how?*
- 4.) *In what ways does community-based democratic resistance to neoliberalism engage with or detract from efforts to mobilize against injustices based on race, class, gender, ability, sexuality or issues including poverty, food security, and environmental degradation?*

A primary goal of this organized session (or sessions) is to assist in networking and connecting individuals who are engaged in research on grassroots democracy, neoliberalism and community and to contribute to existing conversations across multiple disciplines regarding these topics. Please feel free to contact Dr. Joshua Inwood: [jfi0001@auburn.edu](mailto:jfi0001@auburn.edu) or Dr. Leela Viswanathan: [leela.viswanathan@queensu.ca](mailto:leela.viswanathan@queensu.ca) with any questions. As the AAG deadline is October 16, 2008, **we would like a copy of your abstract by October 1** to enable us to organize the session.

### ***Africa’s Spaces of Exclusion***

Both historically and in contemporary Africa, disenfranchised populations face social and spatial exclusion. Whether marked by income, social class, gender, race, ethnicity, occupation, or age, these populations face differential access to particular spaces alongside other forms of inequality and discrimination. In some cases, the presence of these populations become invisible while their experiences remain peripheral to theoretical debates as well as conventional geospatial data. While this exclusion may be actual or perceived, it has important social and spatial implications for these people. This exclusion can be explained from several perspectives - political, social, economic, historical, and cultural.

This session explores these spaces of exclusion in the African continent from multiple perspectives. For example: What produces and sustains these spaces of exclusion? Why does socio-spatial exclusion persist in the continent? Can these spaces shift from exclusionary to inclusionary? How can social and spatial exclusion in the African continent be negotiated and mediated in a sustainable way? We welcome papers with a theoretical, empirical and/or technical focus and encourage papers reflecting both rural and urban settings in Africa.

Organizers: Francis Koti, University of North Alabama; Sarah Smiley, Morgan State University

Interested participants should send expressions of interest, a title, and an abstract that meets AAG guidelines to: Sarah Smiley ([sarah.smiley@morgan.edu](mailto:sarah.smiley@morgan.edu)) or Francis Koti ([ftkoti@una.edu](mailto:ftkoti@una.edu)). Abstracts should be received by October 3, 2008.

### ***Building and Becoming Green: Economic Geographies of the Environment***

In the last few years, the use of the word "green" has risen exponentially as businesses seek to convey their environmental friendliness through their products and processes.

Certifications and standards have been developed for products from food to skyscrapers, and governmental jurisdictions are moving to encourage or mandate the implementation of those standards. At the same time, there is tremendous potential for business and job growth in the "green-collar sectors" of energy, construction, manufacturing, and others.

In many cases, green industries are emerging out of existing firms that are fine-tuning their operations, while in other cases, new firms are developing and implementing new technologies and processes. In either case, the economic geography of these "green industries" is an exciting new arena of study.

This session invites papers that focus on the economic geography of being "green". Papers can explore the public, private, or non-profit sectors, although the emphasis is expected to be on firms. Areas of interest include:

- Green buildings and green builders
- Environmental services
- Green-collar manufacturing jobs
- Biofuel production
- Eco-industrial parks
- Alternative energy manufacturing
- Use of local and regional materials
- Green economic development initiatives
- The effect on industry of green regulations or incentives

Depending on participant response and interest, the final papers may be published as an edited volume or a special journal issue. Please send abstracts no later than **October 1, 2008** to Julie Cidell at [jcidell@illinois.edu](mailto:jcidell@illinois.edu).

Organizer: Julie Cidell, University of Illinois

Sponsored by Economic Geography and Energy and Environment Specialty Groups

### ***Locating the Prison: Geographies of Crime and Punishment***

Rather than reifying the prison as a severed and totalizing spatial disjuncture, this research paper session aims to emphasize the connections and interdependencies that constitute prisons' spatiality. Contrary to powerful geographic images of confinement and restraint, prisons are actually host to remarkable circulatory processes. Bodies, identities, capital, narcotics, and myriad forms of violence often permeate 'the criminal justice system' itself, meanwhile going to (and coming from) the broader contexts in which this system is embedded. A small, but growing, number of geographers have begun the process of tracing these processes and their attendant spatialities. In the spirit of this work, we intend this session as a series of presentations through which to explore imprisonment as a fundamentally spatial project and process. We welcome scholars across methodological and research traditions, and particularly encourage young scholars to submit abstracts for consideration.

Possible themes encouraged for submission include: the rise to mass imprisonment; the political-economy of prison siting; prisoner transportation; rural and urban interconnections; interrogations of so-called "collateral consequences" associated with imprisonment; recidivism; prison privatization; impediments to reentry (e.g., legal barriers to public assistance or food stamps); felony disenfranchisement; the prison-industrial complex; and the so-called 'War on Drugs'. These themes are only intended as a starting point, and other related themes are welcomed equally.

If interested, please submit an abstract for consideration (following standard AAG submission guidelines) to Matt Mitchelson at [mmitchel@uga.edu](mailto:mmitchel@uga.edu) by no later than October 10, 2008. Meantime, feel free to contact myself or Anne Bonds ([bondsa@uwm.edu](mailto:bondsa@uwm.edu)) with any questions or for more details.

Organizers: Matt Mitchelson, University of Georgia & Anne Bonds, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

## **PEOPLE, NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Karen Falconer Al-Hindi** (Ph.D. University of Kentucky, 1993) has been promoted to the rank of Professor of Geography at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Falconer Al-Hindi directs the Women's & Gender Studies Program, and teaches women's studies as well as geography courses. Her book (with Pamela Moss) *Feminisms in Geography: Rethinking Space, Place, and Knowledges*, was published last year by Rowman and Littlefield.

**Joe Scarpaci** (Virginia Tech) completed a one-month teaching position at the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile as part of a Senior Fulbright Specialist assignment in urban and regional planning. He also lectured at the Universidad de Talca and advised a nonprofit organization in the city of Valparaíso's UNESCO World Heritage district and the planning office of the town of San Fernando, 60 kms. north of Santiago. In July Scarpaci was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida.

### **Geoffrey DeVerteuil's Research Images**

This website displays over 300 research images from my various travels across all six continents, between 1996 and the present. There is a strong bias towards my own research interests: urban-centered, focusing on inequality and poverty, architecture, dynamism and change, as well as some of the more whimsical (and jarring) juxtaposition of cities.

I'm advertising this site because I believe these images represent a potentially important resource for urban-centered teaching, presenting and publishing. Please feel free to download the images, as long as you acknowledge my copyright and authorship. If you are interested in obtaining a much higher-resolution version of an image, please contact me at [g.p.deverteuil@soton.ac.uk](mailto:g.p.deverteuil@soton.ac.uk), particularly with regards to the 2004 Los Angeles helicopter shots. If there are any gross mistakes in the image descriptions, please let me know; and please note that the actual dates (not months or years) for some of the images are rather approximate.

Finally, all the images have multiple keywords, and you can search these by using the search engine at the very top right-hand corner of the webpage.

Images can be accessed at:

<http://gg-svr7.geog.soton.ac.uk/staff/gpdv/resimages/default.aspx>

### **Transport Canada Project on Sustainable Transport Practices**

Barry Wellar, Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa, and Principal, Wellar Consulting Inc., has been engaged by Transport Canada to undertake the project "Methodologies for Identifying and Ranking Sustainable Transport Practices in Urban Regions".

A Project Synopsis has been prepared as an element of the outreach part of the project, and it has been posted at <http://www.wellar.ca/wellarconsulting/TCProjectSynopsis.pdf>

Task 1 of the project has been completed. Emphasis is now on contacting individuals and groups with contributions to make to Task 2, and then to Tasks 3-5.

Planners, engineers, and members of other disciplines have been invited to participate in the study. Geographers with expertise in the methods and techniques used to assist in making decisions about identifying, adopting and implementing sustainable transport practices are also invited to participate.

If you wish to contribute as one of the government or non-government experts, please contact B. Wellar by email at [wellarb@uottawa.ca](mailto:wellarb@uottawa.ca).

The Project Synopsis may be used for courses, article referencing, or other purposes consistent with the objectives of the project.

### **Two positions as post doc at the faculty of Social Science**

The faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University announces two openings.

[1] The Department of **Social and Economic Geography** welcomes applicants who can strengthen one or more of its research profiles in accordance with the department's strategic plan: economic geography, urban and social geography, historical landscape geography, development geography, environmental geography and GIS.

Webpage: <http://www.keg.lu.se/eng/index.aspx>

Contact: Head of Department, Professor Eric Clark, [Eric.Clark@keg.lu.se](mailto:Eric.Clark@keg.lu.se)

[2] **Comparative Social Policy / Comparative Social Work** The School of Social Work and Social Welfare is developing a research base in comparative studies of social policy and social work. Aging and care for the aged, child welfare and the nexus of public assistance and welfare systems are important areas for international and comparative studies. Requirements: The applicant should have a PhD in social science with relevance for the intended research effort.

Webpage: <http://www.soch.lu.se/o.o.i.s/15649>

Contact: Head of Department, Associate professor Claes Levin, [Claes.Levin@soch.lu.se](mailto:Claes.Levin@soch.lu.se)

The applications should include:

- A complete curriculum vitae
- A list of publications
- A research outline for the two-year period
- A statement of personal visions for career development
- Reference/support letters from two senior scientists
- A statement of personal visions for career development

Applicants are advised to contact one or several research groups that could serve as hosts and discuss feasibility of the planned research.

The application should be addressed to Registrar, Lund University, P.O. Box 117, SE-221 00 LUND, Sweden, no later than Friday, 10 October, 2008.

## Redefinition of Public space within the Privatization of Cities

### 5th International Conference of the Research Network Private Urban Governance & Gated Communities

Santiago de Chile - March 30th to April 2nd 2009, University of Chile

#### Call for Papers

Cities around the globe witness the development of new institutional settings which organize urban spaces - especially on a sub-communal scale. These new settings involve public and private organizations, different forms of community organizations as well as organizations which cut across the public/private dichotomy. Thus, in existing neighbourhoods become established institutions like horizontal homeowner associations or business improvement districts. Newly urbanized areas are organized as private and often gated residential communities, as shopping centres or as business centres with one management entity. The 5th conference of the research network on "private urban governance" will offer a highly international forum for the interdisciplinary discussion on the causes and consequences for the rise of these new forms of urban governance. The research network has been established in 1999 and is an open network of currently more than 100 researchers (urban geography, planning, architecture, regional economy, law, political science, sociology, anthropology etc.) from around the World.

Over the three days, the conference will take the form of keynote presentations, shorter papers, and include a poster session by postgraduate students. We hope to leave plenty of time for discussion, stimulated by papers that engage with Private Urban Governance and Gated Communities— in research, methods or practice. Papers are welcomed from researchers (including PhDs) at any stage of their careers, but the Poster Session is specifically designed for postgraduates.

If you would like to contribute a paper, please visit the Conference website <http://gated-communities.uchilefau.cl> or contact Nicolas Stutzin [nstutzin@uchile.cl](mailto:nstutzin@uchile.cl) for more information.

**Deadline for poster and paper abstracts submission: October 30th**

For more information about the Private Urban Governance and Gated Communities Research Network please visit: <http://www.gated-communities.de> .

## Sixteenth International Seminar on Urban Form Guangzhou, China, 4 - 7 September 2009

The Sixteenth International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF 2009), co-hosted by South China University of Technology and Guangzhou Urban Planning Bureau, will take place in Guangzhou, China from Friday 4 September to Monday 7 September 2009. The theme of the conference is *Urban morphology and urban transformation*. The organizers and the Council of ISUF invite participation in the Conference by interested academics and professionals. Topics on which proposals are particularly welcome include:

- Urban morphological theory • Urban morphology, planning and design
- Urban morphology and architectural design • New developments in research on building typology
- Typological research, planning and design • Cities in transition

Cities in a global era • Urban form in Asia • Traditional urban form  
Urban heritage and change • Geospatial technology in urban morphology



**South China University of Technology: venue of ISUF 2009**

Proposals for papers should take the form of abstracts of papers, in either English or Chinese. They should be prepared in the following format: title of paper, author(s) name, affiliation, address, e-mail address, telephone number, key words and 250-word abstract. They should be addressed to Professor Yinsheng Tian, Department of Architecture, College of Architecture and Civil Engineering, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510640, P. R. China (e-mail: ISUF2009@scut.edu.cn). Abstracts of papers must be received on or before 31 December 2008. Notification of whether abstracts have been accepted will be provided by 1 March 2009. Those whose abstracts have been accepted will be required to pay a registration fee by 15 June 2009 to have their papers included in the conference programme. The registration fee includes membership of ISUF, and conference lunches and dinners.

Following acceptance of abstracts, submission of papers (not exceeding 4000 words) is optional. If submitted, they should be received by Professor Tian by 15 July 2009. Authors should consult the notes for the guidance of contributors to *Urban Morphology*, available on the ISUF website ([www.urbanform.org](http://www.urbanform.org)) or in recent copies of the journal, before preparing their papers. Selected papers may be published after the conference.

The official conference languages are English and Chinese. There will be a New Researchers' Forum, in which researchers new to the field are invited to take part. New researchers should indicate when they submit their abstracts whether they would like to be included in the New Researchers' Forum.

The city of Guangzhou, with over 2000 years of history, is the third largest city in China. Capital of one of the most economically dynamic provinces in China and located some 120 kilometres north west of Hong Kong, Guangzhou is the southern gateway of China. A number of excursions to places in the city and the region will be featured.

Enquiries and suggestions concerning the conference should be forwarded to Professor Yinsheng Tian (e-mail: ISUF2009@scut.edu.cn), or Dr Kai Gu (e-mail: [k.gu@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:k.gu@auckland.ac.nz)). The Conference organizing committee comprises Yinsheng Tian and Yunding Lu, South China University of Technology; Dong Wang and Haojun Ye, Guangzhou Urban Planning Bureau; Kai Gu, University of Auckland; and J. W. R. Whitehand, University of Birmingham.