

Cultural Geography Specialty Group Association of American Geographers Newsletter

Spring 2006

From the Chair

Greetings fellow Cultural Geographers.

I hope you join me in anticipation of the upcoming AAG meeting in Chicago. I am sure many of you are presenting papers, posters or on panels and look forward to seeing colleagues, sharing research and enjoying the sights and sounds of the big city. To that end, the Executive Committee of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group, has put together what we feel is an exciting program. We are currently sponsoring and have endorsed 33 paper/poster sessions.

After the opening festivities and the plenary featuring Bill Cronon on Tuesday, Bill will once again be speaking on behalf of the CGSG on Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Parlor H. This will be an informal presentation and Bill will be able to interact with questions from attendees and talk about the morphology of Chicago. After the talk, graduate students and interested others can join the specialty group at the House of Blues at 9 pm. We have a small section reserved and will provide the first beverage of choice to attending graduate students. Even those who are still graduate students at heart are invited (but you have to buy your own, sorry).

On Thursday from 11:50 to 12:50 the specialty group business meeting will be held (Session 3312). Your attendance would be appreciated as we vote for new officers (sec/treas and grad student reps) and bring you up to date on other initiatives undertaken by the committee. Some of those were implemented over the summer including the inclusion of an undergraduate paper award, a tier structure for monetary awards for student papers and the inclusion of an additional student rep at the master's level. We will also announce the winners of the paper competitions. And, finally, we hope to garner feedback from our membership. In short, it will be a short, succinct meeting.

The CGSG is also proud to co-sponsor the marquee session for the Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group, Wanona LaDuke, who will give a presentation on her involvement with Native American rights. Please feel free to attend that as well.

Speaking on behalf of the committee, we appreciate your continued interest in Cultural Geography and look forward already to more of the same participation and interest in the upcoming meeting next year.

Cya in the "windy".

Cheers,

Artimus Keiffer, Chair CGSG

William Cronon to Present Session to Cultural Geography Specialty Group

Besides presenting the address at the opening session of the Association of American Geographers meeting on Tuesday evening, William Cronon will offer a session sponsored by the Cultural Geography Specialty Group on Wednesday evening at 7:00 in Parlor H. This session will be more informal and will invite questions and discussion from the audience. It will also feature the presentation of research grant and paper awards from the Specialty Group.

According to his Web site, William Cronon studies American environmental history and the history of the American West. His research seeks to understand the history of human interactions with the natural world: how we depend on the ecosystems around us to sustain our material lives, how we modify the landscapes in which we live and work, and how our ideas of nature shape our relationships with the world around us.

In 1991, he completed a book entitled *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*, which examines Chicago's relationship to its rural hinterland during the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1991, it was awarded the Chicago Tribune's Heartland Prize for the best literary work of non-fiction published during the preceding year. In 1992, it won the Bancroft Prize for the best work of American history published during the previous year and was also one of three nominees for the Pulitzer Prize in History, and in 1993, it received the George Perkins Marsh Prize from the American Society for Environmental History and the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award from the Forest History Society for the best book of environmental and conservation history published during the preceding two years.

Since July 1992, Cronon has been the Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin Madison after having served for more than a decade as a member of the Yale History Department. In 2003, he was also named Vilas [pronounced "Vy-lus"] Research Professor at UW-Madison, the university's most distinguished chaired professorship.

Born September 11, 1954, in New Haven, Connecticut, Cronon received his B.A. (1976) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He holds an M.A. (1979), M.Phil. (1980), and Ph.D. (1990) from Yale, and a D.Phil. (1981) from Oxford University. Cronon has been a Rhodes Scholar, Danforth Fellow, Guggenheim Fellow, and MacArthur Fellow; has won prizes for his teaching at both Yale and Wisconsin; and in 1999 was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society.

The Cultural Geography Specialty Group is honored to host Professor Cronon at this special session and invites all interested persons to attend.

Cultural Geography Specialty Group to Sponsor Sessions at AAG

The Cultural Geography Specialty Group is officially sponsoring 33 paper and poster sessions at the 2006 meeting in Chicago. Titles of the sessions and their organizers are:

- Human and Regional Geography by Doug Hurt
 Storied Spaces: Journeys by Gareth Hoskins
 Storied Spaces: Space and Place by Gareth Hoskins
 Storied Spaces: Materialities by Gareth Hoskins
 Storied Spaces: Epistemologies by Gareth Hoskins
 Landscape, Identity, and Perceptions by Chris Post
 National Parks: Cultural Landscapes, Historical Change, and Tourism by Yolanda Youngs
 Seeing Red: Cultural Geographies of the Titian-Minded by Dydia DeLyser
 Historical Geographies of the Midwest by Matthew Liesch
 Post-Socialism IV: Between East and West? by Marianna Pavlovskaya
 Art is a Tool: Towards an Aesthetics of Maps by John B. Krygier
 Delete the Border! Activist Art Movements, New Mapping Projects, and the Reworking of the Euro-Border by John B. Krygier
 Panel Discussion: Experiments with Territories: Post Cartographic Map Design by John B Krygier
 Global Mobilities and the Knowledge Society by Heike Joens
 Tourism and Identity by Joy Adams
 Nationalism, Geography, and Performance I by Joshua Hagen
 Nationalism, Geography, and Performance II by Joshua Hagen
 Nationalism, Geography, and Performance III by Joshua Hagen
 Categories in Human Geography by Reece Jones
 Folk Geographies: Land, Life, Lore I by Hayden Lorimer and Dydia DeLyser
 Folk Geographies: Land, Life, Lore II by Hayden Lorimer and Dydia DeLyser
 Geographies of Addiction: Mapping Terrains of Temptation and Treatment by Robert Wilton
 Music Geography I: Its Role in Identity by Sara Beth Keough
 Music Geography II: Places, Hearths, and Scenes by Sara Beth Keough
 Panel Discussion: Teaching European Identities by Pauliina Raento
 Urban Mobilities I: Movement, Practice, and Meaning by Justin Spinney
 Urban Mobilities II by Justin Spinney
 Race, Space, and Imperialism: Africa and India by Judith Kenny
 Rights, Reform and Resources: Land and the Politics of Indigenous Identity in Latin America by Bjorn Sletto
 Geography and Art by Chris Mayda and Artimus Keiffer
 The Geography of Wine in Cultural Geography (panel) by Percy Dougherty

Business Meeting to Elect Officers

The Cultural Geography Specialty Group will convene for its annual business meeting on Thursday, March 9, at 11:50 A.M. A new secretary/treasurer will be elected, along with a new graduate student representative. Nominees are:

For Secretary/Treasurer:

Anita K. H. Peterson is currently ABD at the University of Colorado in Boulder where she is writing her dissertation on landscape change and meaning with Ken Foote. The study is focused on American military cemeteries. From 2002-2005 she was a research assistant with the Geography Faculty Development Alliance, a program for early-career faculty improvement, study, and support. She received her masters degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and her bachelor's from the University of Nevada in Reno.

Anita hopes that her role in the CGSG can help to support collegiality and acceptance of difference as well as scholarship. This reflects her concern with the role of "real life" in academics (children, bills, spouses, quality of life) and also the hidden ways in which academia may be set up to sabotage goals of scholarship and full participation. She believes the AAG and its meetings can play a large part in this.

Graduate Student Representative at Doctoral Level:

Sara Beth Keough is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Geography Department at the University of Tennessee. She earned a B.S. in History and a B.A. in Spanish, with a minor in Geography, from Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL (2000). Sara Beth received a M.S. in Geography from Virginia Tech in 2003. At the University of Tennessee, she teaches a large section of World Regional Geography and is active in the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. Sara Beth is a cultural geographer with specialties in urban geography, quantitative and qualitative methods, media and globalization, and Canadian cultural and political issues. Her dissertation focuses on the influence that broadcasts of local music in St. John's, Newfoundland, have on the formation of a Newfoundland national identity. In her spare time, Sara Beth enjoys playing trumpet and guitar, running marathons, skiing (although not much of that gets done in Tennessee), reading, and like any good geographer...traveling!

Joni Palmer earned her Bachelors degree in Science at Cornell University, with a double major in City and Regional Planning and Human-Environment Relations. She received her MLA at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Currently, Joni is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado at Boulder, studying in the area of urban and cultural geography with Dr. Ken Foote. She is a landscape architect, planner, and educator, as well as a visual artist and poet. Joni's work has afforded her the opportunity to work with design

firms, public agencies, and private groups in their efforts to make connections between land and people, and place and time. Joni's recent projects include: working with a team of UNM landscape architecture program faculty and students on the Expo New Mexico Avenue of the Governors project, and a Cultural Landscape Inventory and Improvement Plan for South Martineztown in Albuquerque, NM. In addition, Joni is growing TerraStudio a design/studio practice that works in the realms of landscape/architecture, planning, art, the written word, and education. Joni recently participated in a national show at THE LAND / an art site—Land and Language—her piece was titled PROVOCATIONS. She has completed two Public Art Master Plans for communities in the Denver/Boulder metropolitan area. She is an avid photographer and writer, whose interests are driven by the seemingly mundane aspects and elements of the built sub/urban environment, asking questions about how such spaces are used, perceived, and essential to daily living, towards developing sustainable sub/urban development strategies.

”My primary goal as the Graduate Student Representative at Doctoral Level is to represent the doctoral student members of the CGSG--finding out what it is that the specialty group can do to best serve them. As well, I see this position as an opportunity to become an active member of the specialty group so that I can take what I learn from my peers, and thus continue participating in and contributing to the specialty group once I am a faculty member.”

Charles H. Wade (Louisiana State University) – I am a third-year doctoral student specializing in cultural geography at LSU. I hold a BA in geography from LSU and a MA in geography from Miami University. My specific research interests in cultural geography include place, landscape, identity, and representations and perceptions of place and culture. Since I began my specialization in cultural geography, I have been concerned about the seemingly unnecessary dichotomy between the “old” cultural geography and the “new” cultural geography. I do not believe that the geography of previous generations is any less “scholarly” or less important than some critics have made it out to be. And although newer forms of cultural geography employ more sophisticated methods and often have a necessary critical undertone, I do not feel that that makes their approach inherently superior. I hope to bridge the relationship between the “old” and “new” cultural geography through the medium of the CGSG by perhaps organizing paper sessions or panels with both faculty and students to address these issues at major conferences to show how these approaches are both complementary and beneficial to one another. Although scholarship that deals with culture often takes a backseat to other areas of more “practical” research, the CGSG is still among the largest and most dynamic specialty groups of the AAG. By working to avoid internecine rivalry, the CGSG has the ability to show and reaffirm its great value both inside and outside of geography.

Cultural Geography Specialty Group Announces Winners of Research Grant Competition

The Cultural Geography Specialty Group supports research in the subfield by providing modest grants to graduate students. This year's winners are:

Ph.D. level (tie):

Nicolas Howe

Sara Beth Keough

M.A. level

Sharon Wilcox

Congratulations to all who submitted outstanding proposals! Awards will be made at the William Cronon session for those who are able to attend the meeting.

News from Our Members

Ron Knapp (SUNY New Paltz) had two books published in Fall 2005. The first is a large-format 4-color book with his "favorite" 20 old Chinese houses: *Chinese Houses: The Architectural Heritage of a Nation* (Tuttle, 2005) with photographs by A. Chester Ong and a Preface by Jonathan Spence. He also served as co-editor (with Kai-Yin Lo) and author of 3 chapters in *House Home Family: Living and Being Chinese* (University of Hawaii Press). He gave a public lecture "Principles of Feng Shui and Chinese Domestic Architecture" at the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA, on July 9; a paper "Beyond the Gate: Paper Prints and the Chinese Homestead" at the New York Conference on Asian Studies, October 1; and "Reading China's Vernacular Landscapes" at the First International Arcade Bridges Symposium in Hangzhou, China, on Nov. 24, in addition to talks on China's cultural geography at teacher institutes at China Institute, the Forum for Global Education in New York City, and Primary Source in Boston.

William Norton saw publication of his book *Cultural Geography: Environments, Landscapes, Identities, Inequalities*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, second edition, 2005.