

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

2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

I. Mission Statement:

The Cultural Geography Specialty Group (CGSG) seeks to promote and encourage scholarly research and superior teaching in the field of Cultural Geography through the exchange of current thoughts, trends and information focusing on all areas of the field. The CGSG shall encourage, facilitate and sponsor the organization of paper sessions and discussion panels at national and regional meetings of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) as well as other seminars, symposiums, and conferences at which themes relating to cultural geography are discussed. The CGSG will also reward junior scholars by hosting paper competitions and awarding research grants. The CGSG will stimulate dialog about and among the discipline and represent the members in all matters related to membership in the national association (AAG).

II. 2010 Dues:

Regular Members: \$5.00; Students: \$2.00

III. Board of Directors:

Chair

Chris Post (Kent State University at Stark), term 2013-2015
cpost2@kent.edu

Treasurer/Secretary

Sara Beth Keough (Saginaw Valley State University), term 2010-2012, re-elected to serve 2012-2014 (outgoing)
skeough@vmail.svsu.edu

Ola Johansson (University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown), term 2014-2016 (elected)
johans@pitt.edu

Program Director:

Sharon Adams (University of Texas), term 2010-2012, re-elected to serve 2012-2014 (outgoing)
sharonwadams@utexas.edu

Nicholas Jon Crane (Ohio State University), term 2014-2016 (elected)
crane.61@osu.edu

Awards Director:

Ang Subulwa (University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh), term 2013-2015
subulwaa@uwosh.edu

Nominations Director:

Nathaniel Lewis (Dalhousie University), term 2013-2014 (unable to fulfill duties; filled in for by Program Director Sharon Adams and new officer elected at 2014 Meeting)

nathaniel.lewis@dal.ca

Emily Fekete (University of Kansas), term 2014-2016 (elected)

emilyfekete@gmail.com

Graduate Student Representatives (2):

Weronika Kusek (Kent State University), term 2012-2014 (outgoing)

wkusek@kent.edu

Don Colley (San Diego State University), term 2013-2015

dcolley@rohan.sdsu.edu

Matthew Cook (University of Tennessee), term 2014-2016 (elected)

mcook6@utk.edu

IV. Accomplishments, Activities Scheduled, Future Plans and Directions**Business Meeting**

The CGSG Business Meeting was held in Tampa on Sunday, Friday, April 11 11:50am in conjunction with the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. There were approximately 20 people in attendance. This participation is up from previous years, which I believe can be attributed to the noon time slot, but is still a little discouraging.

The agenda for the meeting included:

- a report from the Chair (details below);
- the election of officers (see above) and graduate student representative (administered by Ang Subulwa, Awards Director, instead for Sharon Adams, Program Director, who was absent and filled the duties for Nathaniel Lewis, who never fulfilled his duties of Nominations Director as elected at the Los Angeles meeting);
- a report from each of the officers (Program Director, Awards Director, and Secretary/Treasurer), and a report from the graduate student representative on this year's "Landscape Photography Exhibit" and Graduate Student breakfast (details below);
- discussion of various ways to increase submissions for our graduate student awards, particularly the paper awards, in addition to starting a Facebook page for the group;
- a brainstorm of next year's (2015) CGSG Marquee speaker.

With exception to Sharon Adams (Program Director) and Nathaniel Lewis (see note above) all other current and elected officers were present at the meeting.

Chair Post reported on updating and streamlining the CGSG Bylaws and adding a bullet-point history of officers, marquee speakers, and graduate student award winners to the group's website.

The following individuals were elected to available positions on the CGSG Board:

- Ola Johansson (University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown), term 2014-2016
- Nicholas Jon Crane (Ohio State University), term 2014-2016
- Emily Fekete (University of Kansas), term 2014-2016
- Matthew Cook (University of Tennessee), term 2014-2016

Newsletter

The CGSG Newsletter, which was published previously twice a year in hardcopy form, has been transformed to an annual online publication (distributed directly before the AAG meeting) that was sent to each specialty group member via email and was placed on the new CGSG web page www.stark.kent.edu/CGSG. The reduction in number is necessary because the newsletter has been reformatted to provide more substantive content rather than simply announcements.

The Spring 2014 newsletter (<http://www.stark.kent.edu/academics/depts/geog/cgsg/upload/cgsg-2014-newsletter.pdf>), edited by Chris Post and Sara Beth Keough, contained the following items: comments/notes from the chair, officer reports, a listing by day and time of all of the CGSG sponsored paper sessions, advertisements for annual Marquee Speaker session and Graduate Student Coffee, and an essay by Gareth John titled "Cultural Geography on the 'Edge of the Prairie'".

2014 CGSG Student paper and Research Grant Awards:

We received 10 submissions for our awards this year, down from a record 18 last year. One concern with this, however, is the number of non-CGSG members submitting for our awards (4 of the 10 submissions were from non-members). We received 7 submissions for grants, and three for paper awards. Chair Post and Awards Director Subulwa will discuss ways to increase these numbers—the money is available and we want to give to deserving young scholars. This year, our winners were honored at the CGSG Marquee speaker session in Tampa. Ang Subulwa announced the award winners at the Business Meeting and Chris Post presented their certificates and checks to them at the Marquee Address in Dr. Subulwa's stead.

Denis E. Cosgrove Award, \$500

Linnea Sando, Montana State University

"Sheep Country in the American West: Place, People, and Identity in Three Communities"

Denis E. Cosgrove Award, \$500

Annamarie Galeucia, Louisiana State University

"Mobile Homes, and the American Dream: Race, Class, and Space in Idealized Landscapes of Home"

2014 Annual Meeting

The 2014 CGSG Marquee Speaker was Joseph Scarpaci (The Center for the Study of Cuban Culture + Economy; Professor Emeritus, Virginia Polytechnic University), co-author of *Cuban Landscapes: Heritage, Memory, and Place*, *Plazas & Barrios Heritage Tourism an Globalization in the Latin American Centro Historico*, *Havana: Two Faces of the Antillean Metropolis*, and *Marketing without Advertising: Consumer Choice and Brand Preference in Cuba*. His talk was supported the *Journal of Cultural Geography* (Taylor Francis Group/Routledge). His address will be published in the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, October 2014 (title TBA). Approximately 15 attendees were at the event.

In the 2014 CGSG Report, there was a noted desire to reach out and collaborate more with geography journals such as *Journal of Cultural Geography* (already established) or *Material Culture*. To this, we initiated a new partnership with the American Geographical Society (AGS) and their journal, *FOCUS on Geography*. The Landscape Photography Exhibit, organized by Graduate Student Representatives Kusek and Colley, received 12 submissions. This was the same number as last year but down from 33 in 2012, 19 in 2011, and 15 in 2010. The AAG continued its support of this event with boards and space in the Exhibit Hall for presentation. *FOCUS* will publish 3 photos and accompanying essays explaining them, from the exhibit. This part of the event was judged by CGSG Board Members and *FOCUS* Editorial Board members.

In 2014, the CGSG sponsored (or co-sponsored) 64 sessions. In addition to the CGSG Marquee speaker, we provided \$100 of financial support for one session: the Indigenous Peoples SG hosting of Queen Quet of the Gullah/Geechee and her plenary talk to their group. For the record, this was requested by the IPSG rather last-minute (and they recognized as such), but we were willing and happy to help.

The graduate student representatives of the CGSG organized a morning social event/breakfast at Moxie's in Tampa. The event attracted 16 CGSG members, down from last year but maintaining momentum. They plan to continue this tradition at next year's annual meeting.

Future Directions:

At the board meeting the CGSG discussed two primary initiatives for the next year. First, we want to find ways to increase submissions to the Graduate Student Awards, particularly the student paper awards (the Terry Jordan-Bychkov PhD Paper award and the Master's Level Student Paper Award). Of our 4 awards (Paper and Research Grant, each with MA and PhD levels), we only awarded one—the PhD Research Grant but we funded two different proposals. We want to offer more and budget to do so. Awards Director Subulwa and Chair Post (formerly an Awards Director) will discuss options and bring any substantive changes to the awards process to the Board. Second, Grad Reps Colley and Cook were asked to re-establish the CGSG Facebook account that was established by former Grad Rep Johnny Finn but has become inactive. We feel this, perhaps in addition to a Twitter account, could greatly help in participation in our awards and photo exhibit, and with attendance at our business meetings and Marquee Session.

V. Membership and Participation

According to the AAG Knowledge Communities, there are 680 paid members of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group. Besides the AAG membership list, a list serve for the CGSG is maintained Oklahoma State University and it currently has 528 registered members.

Financial Report

The CGSG bank account is kept with funds in the AAG Central Office. The current account statement can be obtained from Teri Martin or Michelle Ledoux in the main AAG office. (A recent statement appears on the next page of this report). After 3,600.30 as of 12/31/2013, the CGSG spent \$1,000 on the Grad Student Awards, \$150 on judge honorarium for our paper awards, \$100 to IPSG, ~\$150 for the Graduate Student Breakfast at Moxies, and \$1,095 on Marquee Speaker Scarpaci. January through March dues withstanding, this leaves the CGSG with approximately \$1205.30.

Association of American Geographers
Specialty Groups Financial Report
December 31, 2013

Cultural Geography Specialty Group

Date	Description	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
8/31/11	Balance forward			\$ 2,076.94
9/30/11	Dues collected for Sept. 2011	562.00		2,638.94
10/14/11	Routledge - Richard Day Speech	250.00		2,888.94
10/31/11	Dues collected for Oct. 2011	195.00		3,083.94
11/30/11	Dues collected for Nov. 2011	213.00		3,296.94
12/31/11	Dues collected for Dec. 2011	189.00		3,485.94
1/5/12	Transfer to IPSG for AM 2012 session sponsorship		(150.00)	3,335.94
1/30/12	Transfer from UGSG for AM 2012 speaker	150.00		3,485.94
1/31/12	Routledge - sponsorship of AM 12 speaker	480.00		3,965.94
1/31/12	Dues collected for Jan 2012	236.00		4,201.94
2/14/12	Yang - MA research grant award		(250.00)	3,951.94
2/14/12	Zhang - Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov PhD Paper Award		(250.00)	3,701.94
2/14/12	Cook - MA student paper award		(200.00)	3,501.94
2/14/12	Warren - Denis E. Cosgrove PhD Research Grant		(500.00)	3,001.94
2/7/12	Bartos - stipend for paper judging		(50.00)	2,951.94
2/22/12	Brash - honorarium		(500.00)	2,451.94
2/23/12	Way - stipend for judging student papers		(50.00)	2,401.94
2/29/12	Dues collected for Feb 2012	175.00		2,576.94
3/5/12	Keough - Reimbursement for breakfast meeting		(60.97)	2,515.97
3/8/12	Sponsorship of Warren Montag lecture		(100.00)	2,415.97
3/12/12	Brash - AM 2012 expenses		(40.85)	2,375.12
3/31/12	Dues collected for Mar 2012	137.00		2,512.12
4/30/12	Dues collected for Apr 2012	113.00		2,625.12
5/31/12	Dues collected for May 2012	63.00		2,688.12
6/30/12	Dues collected for June 2012	104.00		2,792.12
7/31/12	Dues collected for July 2012	73.00		2,865.12
8/31/12	Dues collected for Aug 2012	155.00		3,020.12
8/31/12	Balance			3,020.12
8/31/12	Balance forward			\$ 3,020.12
9/30/12	Dues collected for Sept 2012	212.00		3,232.12
10/31/12	Dues collected for Oct. 2012	535.00		3,767.12
11/30/12	Dues collected for Nov. 2012	203.00		3,970.12
12/31/12	Dues collected for Dec. 2012	148.00		4,118.12
1/31/13	Dues collected for Jan 2013	163.00		4,281.12
2/28/13	Dues collected for Feb 2013	181.00		4,462.12
3/7/13	Informa wire received - speaker sponsorship	365.58		4,827.70
3/29/13	Ranselm - MA Paper Award		(200.00)	4,627.70
3/29/13	Kong - Speaker stipend		(1,595.00)	3,032.70
3/28/13	Titanski-Hooper - Denis Cosgrove PhD Grant		(500.00)	2,532.70
3/29/13	Hammond - Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov PhD Paper Award		(250.00)	2,282.70
3/29/13	Holleman - MA Grant		(250.00)	2,032.70
3/28/13	Alexander - Paper Judge Stipend		(50.00)	1,982.70
3/28/13	Subulwa - Paper Judging Stipend		(50.00)	1,932.70
3/31/13	Dues collected for March 2013	172.00		2,104.70
4/11/13	Keough - Reimbursement for breakfast meeting		(193.39)	1,911.31
4/30/13	Dues collected for April 2013	188.00		2,099.31
5/31/13	Dues collected for May 2013	80.00		2,179.31
6/30/13	Dues collected for June 2013	98.00		2,277.31
7/31/13	Dues collected for July 2013	83.00		2,360.31
8/31/13	Dues collected for Aug 2013	104.99		2,465.30
8/13/13	Balance			2,465.30
8/31/13	Balance forward			\$ 2,465.30
9/30/13	Dues collected for Sept 2013	163.00		2,628.30
10/31/13	Dues collected for Oct 2013	359.00		2,987.30
11/30/13	Dues collected for Nov 2013	312.00		3,299.30
12/31/13	Dues collected for Dec 2013	301.00		3,600.30
12/31/13	Balance			3,600.30

VI. Special Requests or Questions for Council

Two concerns (not necessarily requests) were brought up at the CGSG Business Meeting. First, the time for our business meeting was listed differently in the AAG mobile app, on the poster outside the meeting room, and in the hard copy program. Second, it was asked that the AAG improve wi-fi access at the conference. Knowing this is a complicated logistical and financial issue, it was proposed that sessions utilizing online/cloud technology (GIS, twitter, other research resources and data, etc) be placed in a part of the conference space with dependable access. Chair Post has already contacted Patricia Solis and Oscar Larsen with these concerns.

Respectfully submitted by:



Chris W. Post, Chair (2013-2015)

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