



RGS-IBG Population Geography Research Group Annual General Meeting 2018

RGS-IBG Annual Conference, Cardiff University
Beverton Lecture Theatre (Main Building)
Wednesday 29th August, 18.45-20.00

Attendees

Nissa Finney (Chair), Sophie Cranston (minutes), Nigel Walford, Catherine Waite, Rory Coulter, Nigel de Noronha, Boyana Buyuklieva.

Apologies

John McCarthy, Tony Champion, Helen Packwood, David McCollum, Darren Smith, Nik Lomax, Charlotte Bolton, Fran Darlington-Pollock, Kate Botterill, Sergei Shubin, Adam Dennett, Keith Halfacree, Andreas Culora.

1. AGM minutes were agreed.
2. Annual reports from the Committee
 - a. Treasurer (Nigel Walford)

See appendix A. Nigel noted problems in dealing with the bank in obtaining statement so income received is missing. Problems will be discussed with next Treasurer.

Action: Next treasurer to consider changing account provider

- b. Communications (Helen Packwood/Nik Lomax)

See appendix B.

In Helen and Nik's absence, report presented by Nissa Finney. Thanks were conveyed to Helen and Nik for the great job in maintaining website and blog and communicating what group does.

Thanks to blog post contributors: Nissa Finney, Ludi Simpson, Kate Botterill, David McCollum, Charlotte Bolton, Andreas Culora, Sophie Cranston, Nik Lomax, Tony Champion, Laura Prezares, Hamish Robertson, Clara Mulder and Lisa Thalheimer.

- c. Early Careers (Catherine Waite)

See appendix C. Catherine raised scope of doing more in this role. Potential event (see 4.2 a good avenue for this).

d. Postgraduate (Charlotte Bolton/Andreas Culora)

See appendix D. In Charlotte and Andreas' absence, report presented by Nissa Finney. Disappointment noted that not enough submissions were received for postgraduate session as RGSIBG. Potential hooks to consider are "new and emerging" session or publication that results from session.

Thanks noted for work that Charlotte and Andreas undertook for the Mid-term event despite conference organisers not delivering stall as promised.

e. Events (Sophie Cranston/Kate Botterill)

See appendix E.

PopGRG also co-sponsored in January 2018 the Internal Migration one day event organised by BSPS and several PopGRG members participated. PopGRG want to maintain links to BSPS and researchers in demographics.

Pre-conference event was noted as a success. Kate will report financials later in the year. Tag-on event to major conference is an avenue to pursue in the future.

PopGRG also provided 2xPG bursaries for Geographies of Education Conference (September 2018).

f. Membership (Fran Darlington Pollock)

See appendix F.

In Fran's absence, report presented by Nissa Finney. Discussed whether changes in applying/renewing membership (online system) may have contributed to small decline in membership.

Points raised about whether to introduce a small fee for non-RGS members if 'value added' by membership could be addressed.

g. Publication and Awards (David McCollum)

See appendix G. In David's absence, report presented by Nissa Finney. 2017 Prize Winners were: Bob Woods Prize – Niall Newsham (Liverpool); Joanna Stillwell Prize: 1st Elizabeth Augarde (Leeds), 2nd Anwen Davis (Edinburgh), 3rd Elizabeth Morrison (Nottingham).

David proposed that Joanna Stillwell prize be changed to one prize of £100, with a special mention for 2nd place entry. A blog post will be requested from winner. This change was supported by the committee.

h. Chair (Nissa Finney)

See appendix H.

3. Election of Committee members

a. Treasurer (2018-2021)

Thanks to Nigel Walford for 12 years of service.

Sergei Shubin was proposed by Nissa Finney and seconded by Rory Coulter. No other nominations were received. Sergei Shubin was duly elected.

b. Secretary (2018-2021)

Thanks to John McCarthy for this work in this role.

Sophie Cranston was proposed by Catherine Waite and seconded by Nigel Walford. No other nominations were received. Sophie Cranston was duly elected.

c. Communications Officer (2018-2020)

Helen Packwood was standing for re-election. Proposed by Sophie Cranston and seconded by Nigel De Noronha. Helen Packwood was duly elected.

Sophie Cranston raised point that Andreas Culora and Charlotte Bolton (Postgraduate Representatives 2017-2019) were both finishing their PhDs, with Charlotte having secured employment outside academia. However, Charlotte had not stated that she wanted to stand down in her role.

Committee suggested that might want to think about reorganising the length of the Postgraduate position or keeping role as two years, but staggering the start.

The PopGRG Committee membership as of September 2018 is as follows:

Name	Email	Committee Position	Term dates (start and end years)
Nissa Finney	Nissa.Finney@st-andrews.ac.uk	Chair	2016-2019
Sergei Shubin	s.v.shubin@swansea.ac.uk	Treasurer	2018-2021
Sophie Cranston	S.Cranston@lboro.ac.uk	Secretary	2018-2021

Catherine Waite	Catherine.Waite@northampton.ac.uk	Early Careers Officer	2017-2019
Nik Lomax	N.M.Lomax@leeds.ac.uk	Communications Officer	2017-2019
Helen Packwood	Hcp1@st-andrews.ac.uk	Communications Officer	2018-2020
David McCollum	David.McCollum@st-andrews.ac.uk	Publications and Awards Officer	2017-2019
Fran Darlington-Pollock	F.Darlington-Pollock@liverpool.ac.uk	Membership Officer	2017-2019
Katherine Botterill	K.Botterill@napier.ac.uk	Events Officer	2017-2019
Andreas Culora	A.Culora@lboro.ac.uk	Postgraduate Officer	2017-2019
Charlotte Bolton	C.G.Bolton@lboro.ac.uk	Postgraduate Officer	2017-2019

4. Strategy 2017-2020: Are we on track? (see <https://popgeog.org/about/pgrg-committee/>)

Nissa proposed two initiatives for the coming year, which were supported by the meeting:

1. To develop the Research Group Archive. There is a lack of records of the activities of the group. The aim would be to collect and collate archives to be held at RGS and digitised as far as possible. Some material could be developed for the website. In addition to safeguarding the records of the group this project would also involve members. RGS are supportive of this.

It was suggested that the project could also result in a collaboratively written paper about the history of the group. This idea was positively received by the meeting.

Action: Nissa to liaise with membership officer and other committee members to establish the RG Archive project.

2. Career Development workshop at the International Conference on Population Geographies 2019 (Loughborough, first week in July, tbc). The aim is to build a network and community of Population Geographers and provide support. This would be the basis of an application to the RGS for funds for this event including subsidy for PG/EC researchers attending the conference.

Action: Nissa to liaise with Darren Smith (Loughborough) and draft application to the RGS-IBG by deadline of October 31st 2018.

Other ideas for future activities: Reading/writing retreat

Ideas for AC 2019:

Themes of international migration, ethnic minority population change (Tony Champion)

Alternative formats: In conversation (established and early career researchers), Taste of population geography (quick fire roundtable presentations), wandering conversations (networking walks), emerging work (perhaps from people's first papers)

Suggestions also raised to mark anniversary of PopGeog which founded as a working group in 1968, but became a research group later on. Suggestions included a plaque, placing notice on RGS-IBG notice board or holding an anniversary event such as a public lecture. A reduced fee for PopGeog members might be a way to increase membership.

5. Any Other Business

1. Dates for diaries:

10-12 th September	BSPS, Winchester
30 September	Deadline for Population, Space and Place Special Issue proposals
8 th October, 2.30pm	RGS Sub Committee meeting (London)
31 st October	RGS-IBG RG Grant Application Deadline
15-16 November	Family and Fertility in Europe event, St Andrews. CFP out now.
31 st December	Submission deadline for Bob Woods Postgraduate Dissertation Prize
July 2019	International Conference on Population Geographies, Loughborough
31 st July 2019	Submission Deadline for Joanna Stillwell Undergraduate Dissertation Prize
June 2020	iMigMob 3, St Andrews

2. Suggestions for Nominations for RGS-IBG Medals and Awards are invited (for established and early career researchers). Please contact Nissa.

3. GDPR legislation was raised and RGS-IBG advice on this to be followed.

4. Thanks and presentation made to Nigel Walford for his service to the Research Group as Treasurer.

Appendix A Annual Reports- Treasurer

Population Geography Research Group

Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers

Statement of Account: 01 August 2017 – 31 July 2018

Opening balance brought forward 01 August 2017	£1,569.86
Income	
RGS-IBG Subvention	£295.00
Total income	£295.00
Expenditure	
BSPS for LSE event (Jan. 2018)	£250.00
Grants, prizes	£385.00
Website	£48.84
Total Expenditure	£683.84
Surplus (deficit)	-£388.84
Closing balance carried forward 31 July 2018	£1,181.02

Treasurer's Report

In presenting these accounts it should be noted that difficulties with Lloyd's Bank have resumed. Bank statements have failed to reach the Treasurer despite various efforts on my part over the last year. Eventually, it was anticipated that this issue would be resolved after receipt of a letter dated 04/05/18 from Mr Matthew Cuthbert, Specialist Operations, Lloyds' Bank, Birmingham 2 DBC, 22a Hampton Street, Birmingham B18 6AH saying that "The statements you have requested have now been sent out to the address you provided. We can confirm that this address matches what we currently hold on our records." My letter to Lloyd's Bank dated 25/04/18 referred to my work address at Kingston University. The absence of statements following this letter by 18 July resulted in the Treasurer sending a further letter by post and fax asking for the latest statement and if possible for a PDF version to be emailed. To date there has been no reply. The RHED office have been kept informed of these difficulties.

The consequence of this situation is that the accounts presented here omit any other income received, such as royalties from the Internal Migration book (£44.63 in 2016/17). The record of expenditure is accurate from the cheque book.

Further inroads were made into the Group's income and expenditure exceeded income by nearly £400.00. The overall end of year balance is £1,181.02. The RGS-IBG subvention was the only source of income. The account remains at the Lloyds Bank, Park Row, Leeds and no bank charges were incurred. Given the comments above regarding the absence of bank statements, the balance in the account is sufficient to cover anticipated expenditure over the next year.



Respectfully submitted by Prof. Nigel Walford
Department of Geography and Geology, Kingston University
n.walford@kingston.ac.uk
31 July 2018

Appendix B Annual Report- Communications

Communications Report 2017/18

Helen Packwood
Nik Lomax

Thank you to all those who have supported us with communication over the past year – writing blogs, tweeting and retweeting as well as submitting refreshed material for the website. Communication has largely been focussed on three main areas since last August; the website (including the launch of the PGRG Blog), Twitter and JiscMail. Each platform seems to reach a varied audience and is used to highlight news, events, activities and opportunities. Please see below for an update on each area. If you have any questions or ideas for developing communication, please do get in touch.

Helen Packwood hcp1@st-andrews.ac.uk

Nik Lomax N.M.Lomax@leeds.ac.uk

- Website (www.popgeog.org)

The website has been updated at points throughout the year however, the main addition is the launch of regular Population Geography blog. Launched last August (2017) this feature has brought new visitors to the site; attracting interest from across Europe, Asia, North and South America and beyond. The blog provides a forum for discussion about topical issues in the field of population geography and has reported on a number of RSG-IBG sponsored events. Thank you to each guest blogger, contributing on topics as diverse as population estimates, spatial strategies, family ties, climate change and migration. If you have an idea for a contribution or would like to write a short blog (of around 300 words) please get in touch with Nik.

- Twitter ([pgrg_rgsibg](https://twitter.com/pgrg_rgsibg))

The twitter account continues to attract new followers globally (individuals, institutions and organisations). At last count, we had 305 followers, representing a fifty per cent increase over the last year. We continue to tweet about the latest research, innovative methods, relevant conferences, new publications, job vacancies and PGR opportunities. If other members would like to tweet from the PGRG account, contact Helen for the login details.

- JiscMail (popgrg@jiscmail.ac.uk)

The JiscMail list continues to be used regularly to highlight events, activities and opportunities. There are currently 390 subscribers to the list with a number of new subscribers in recent months. If you would like to join the distribution list simply sign up at www.jiscmail.ac.uk. Committee members can post to the group by emailing popgrg@jiscmail.ac.uk. Others interested in posting can send Nik or Helen the details.

Appendix C Annual Report-Early Careers (Catherine Waite)

Early Career Officer Report

Population Geography Research Group AGM
Royal Geographical Society with the IBG Annual Conference

29th August 2018

Dr Catherine Waite, University of Northampton
Catherine.waite@northampton.ac.uk

It has been a quiet year this year in relation to the activities of early career population geographers with the research group activities either specifically targeted at postgraduate researchers or open to population geographers more broadly.

Having moved on from the Postgraduate Research Officer role at the last AGM, I have been available to act as a mentor to the new officers, Andreas Culora and Charlotte Bolton. However, the new officers have excelled in their roles and required very little support from the Early Career Officer. There was some liaison with regards to Population Geography Research Group's presence at the Postgraduate Forum MidTerm Conference that was held in April at Royal Holloway, University of London. Likewise, support was provided for planned sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference, following sessions that have run in 2016 and 2017, but these sessions are not going ahead this year's conference.

Appendix D Annual Report-Postgraduate (Charlotte Bolton/Andreas Culora)

PGRG Postgraduate Report 2017/2018 (Andreas Culora & Charlotte Bolton)

This year has been a good one for engaging postgraduates with the PGRG and the Population Geography discipline, with a number of steps taken to increase our visibility within the postgraduate community at various academic events throughout the year.

For a third year running, a session co-sponsored by the group was convened by ourselves and Dr Catherine Waite at last year's RGS-IBG conference, titled Postgraduate Contributions to Population Geography. Four papers were presented, followed by a roundtable discussion led by Dr Sophie Cranston. The session was well-attended, with four exciting papers presented on topics including resilience within refugee families living in Plymouth, and population change and labour markets in Syria. We'd like to thank Sophie for very kindly taking on the role of discussant and providing a platform for stimulating discussion for all those in attendance. A blogpost summarising the session is available on the PGRG website. Unfortunately, we were unable to convene a postgraduate session at this year's RGS conference in Cardiff due to a small number of abstract submissions.

The PGRG have generously provided bursaries for postgraduates to attend several academic events this year. Paula Duffy (University of St Andrews) was sponsored by the group to attend the event “Is internal migration slowing down?” at the London School of Economics in January. The group also sponsored two postgraduate researchers to attend the RGS-IBG postgraduate mid-term conference at Royal Holloway University in April. Dominic Obeng (Leicester University) and Lisa Thalheimer (University of Oxford) were awarded the postgraduate bursaries by the group. Lisa Thalheimer subsequently wrote a blogpost that is currently on the groups website summarising her doctoral research, titled “Extreme Weather Events And Population Movement In The Era Of Climate Change”.

The mid-term postgraduate conference was a useful opportunity to promote the group within the postgraduate community. Whilst we were not able to set up a PGRG stall at the conference as initially planned, we disseminated a group information sheet (attached below) and “Are you a Population Geographer?” quiz cards to delegates. Overall, it has been a successful and enjoyable year for us as Postgraduate Officers. We would like to thank everyone on the Committee for their support this year!

Population Geography Research Group (PGRG)



Who are we?

PGRG is one of the research groups of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). It aims to promote population geography and support population geographers. Charlotte Bolton (C.G.Bolton@lboro.ac.uk) and Andreas Culora (A.culora@lboro.ac.uk) are the Postgraduate Officers of the group - Please get in touch to find out more about us!

What we do

- The PGRG provided a bursary for a PGR to attend the event co-sponsored by the PGRG and BSPS “Is internal migration slowing down?”, Thursday 11th January 2018.
- Sponsored 10 sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference in London, August 30th – 1st September 2017
- The PGRG offer the Joanna Stillwell Undergraduate and Bob Woods Postgraduate Dissertation Prizes, each carrying an award of £100.

Website, blog & social media



Website link: <https://popgeog.org/>

Check out our blog at: <https://popgeog.org/news/blog/> - get in touch if you'd like to contribute!

PopGeogRG Twitter handle: @pgrg_rgsibg – follow us to stay up-to-date with news and events!

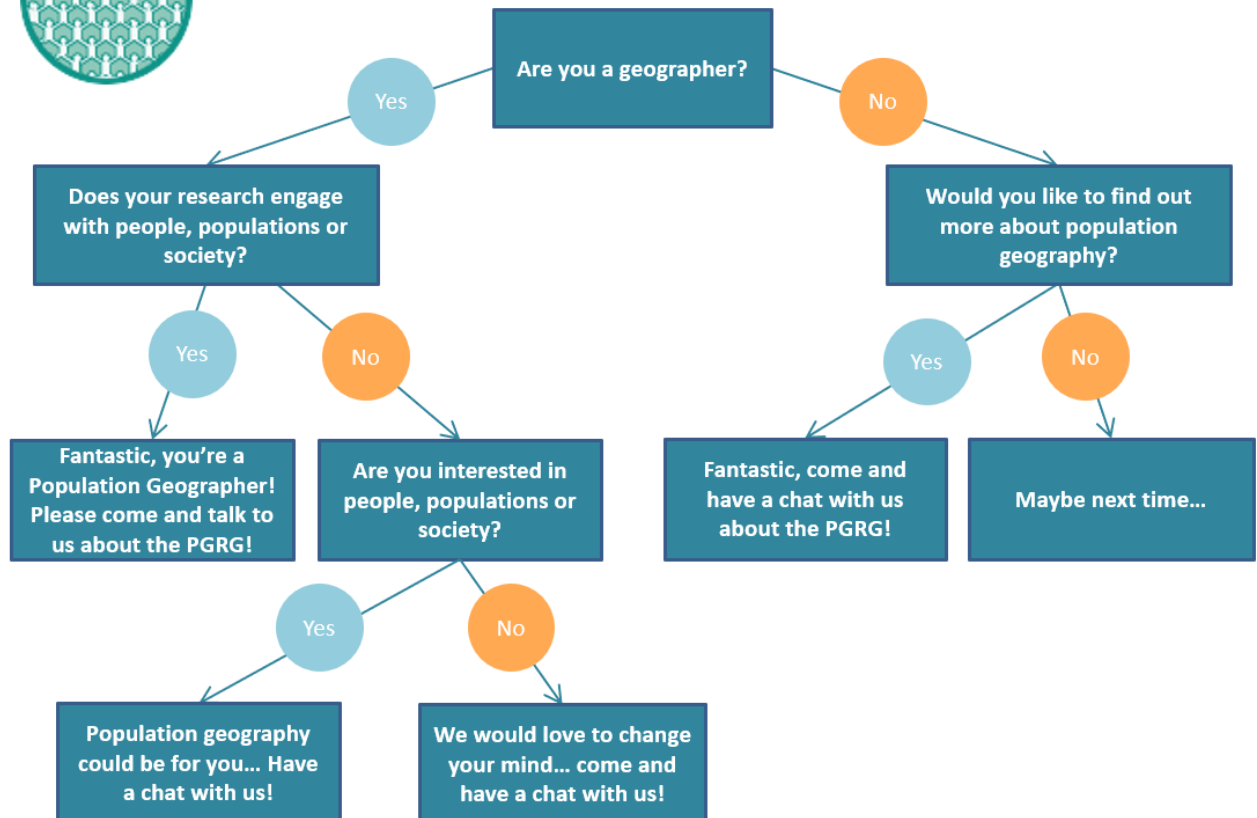
Upcoming events

- PopFest (annual Population Studies conference for postgraduate students) hosted by the University of Oxford, 19th-21st June 2018
- RGS-IBG AC2018 Pre-conference: Austerity Politics and the Changing Landscapes of Inequality, Tuesday 28th August 2018 – (*info sheet available for more details!*)

- Sponsoring 5 sessions at this years RGS-IBG Annual International Conference hosted by Cardiff University, 28th-31st August 2018



Are you a Population Geographer?



Appendix E Annual Report-Events (Sophie Cranston/Kate Botterill)

RGS-IBG Annual Conference

1. **Pre-Conference RGS-IBG Event**

We have successfully organised a pre-conference event on Austerity Politics and the Changing Landscapes of Inequality with the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group. The programme is attached to the end of this report. At the beginning of August, we had 74 people registered to attend. Big thanks to Kate Botterill who led this.

2. **Calls for Sponsorship.**

We had a healthy number of applications for sponsorship for sessions at the RGSIBG, including applications from people who have not previously applied to PopGeog. This is encouraging.

3. **Sessions**

At the RGS-IBG this year we are sponsoring:

'Housing landscapes and the lifecourse,' convened by Rory Coulter (University College London, UK) and Michael Thomas (University of Groningen, The Netherlands).

'Interrogating relationships between spatial and social mobility,' organized by Marta Bivand Erdal (Peace Research Institute Oslo, Norway).

'Landscapes of Education—Migration and Mobility' convened by Suzanne Beech (Ulster University, UK) and Johanna Waters (University College London, UK),

'Landscapes of Gentrification' convened by Darren Smith (Loughborough University, UK) and Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

'Geographies of Migrant Politics,' organized by Sophie Cranston (Loughborough University, UK) and Elizabeth Mavroudi (Loughborough University, UK)

4. **Guest Passes**

There were no applicants for guest passes this year.

Appendix F Annual Report-Membership (Fran Darlington Pollock)

PopGRG Membership Report

Population Geography Research Group AGM | RGS-IBG Annual Conference

Dr Fran Darlington-Pollock, University of Liverpool

f.darlington-pollock@liverpool.ac.uk

Membership

Members are reported to committees via monthly reports from the RGS saved to a shared (protected) dropbox. The information provided details a list of current members (including their status and the time they were elected into the RGS, though not when they joined the PopGRG) and any new joiners since the first day of the last month. As such, the current list of members changes on a monthly basis depending on the information provided by the RGS. All reported new joiners are emailed with a welcome email. Any members only correspondence should be sent to the current list provided by the RGS where this is considered appropriate. However, the majority of our communications are via jisc mail and to, I understand, a wider audience.

Point to consider: how do we engage with 'paid up' RGS members versus wider jisc mailing lists; can we encourage 'friends' to join via the RGS; what is the 'added value' of being an RGS paid member versus a 'friend' or associate?

As of August 2018, we have 176 current members according to the RGS data (versus as of August 2017, and 187 as of August 2016). Figure 1 summarises our members by membership status. This is down from August 2016 (187 members).

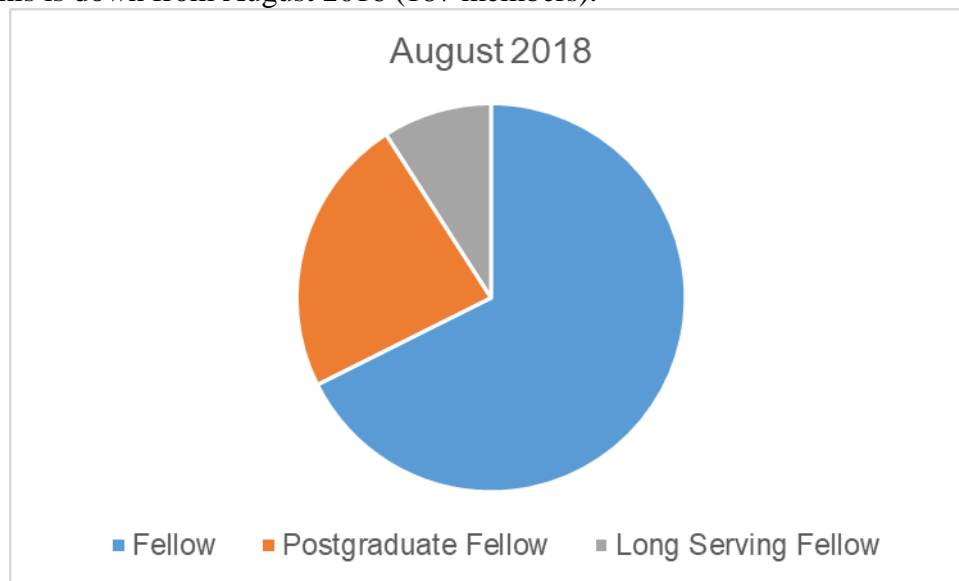


Figure 1 Members by Membership Status, August 2018

Members Engagement / Points for Discussion

- How to we expand the members list / determine the value of being an official member
- Could we engage with members and establish more meaningful discussions between members via a Population Geography Research Group special issue in one of the RGS journals?
- Run an event exploring the relationship between quantitative and qualitative methods as population geographers with the core aim of expanding membership / uniting existing members outside the RGS annual conference?

- Should we have ‘members only’ communications (not advocating this, querying what the difference / value is between signing up to the jiscmail and being an RGS-based member).
- Beyond welcoming new members, how can we expand the role of membership secretary to better support new and existing members? This likely needs to be in partnership with the communications secretary.

Appendix G Annual Report-Publication and Awards (David McCollum)

Report, PGRG Prizes and Awards Officer

It has been another solid year for the PGRG dissertation prizes. I have just finished judging the five strong submissions to the 2018 Joanna Stillwell undergraduate dissertation prize (report below). Unfortunately submissions to the 2017 Bob Woods postgraduate prize were fewer in number, with only two submissions (report below). Since last year I have arranged for the winners to supply a photograph and short bio for the PGRG website in an attempt to increase the volume of submissions by increasing publicity for winners and their institutions. Unfortunately this does not seem to have had much of an impact on the quantity of submissions. I wonder whether we might also move from awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes (for £100, £50 and £25 respectively), to awarding just a first prize (and perhaps increasing its value), as this may also increase submissions. The deadline for the 2018 Bob Woods postgraduate prize is the end of December, so I am hoping for a reasonable volume of submissions this time round.

David McCollum

University of St Andrews

Report on dissertations entered for the 2018 Joanna Stillwell undergraduate dissertation prize

Five dissertations were submitted this year, from Universities of St Andrews, Northampton, Sussex, Royal Holloway and UCL. As always, the standard of submissions was very high, covering an interesting range of topics and involving a diversity of interesting methodological approaches. All had considerable merit and reading them was a very pleasurable experience. In my own subjective view, the dissertation from Sussex was the strongest submission and is therefore awarded first place in the Joanna Stillwell dissertation prize. This thesis was a mature and conceptually rich analysis of how European migrants living in Brighton and Dorset have perceived and responded to the Brexit vote. The dissertation is very timely and it was extremely well researched and written. It also scores highly in terms of theoretical engagement and thus is, in my view, publishable. Many congratulations to the author. In second place was the St Andrews submission, which was a conceptually mature and sophisticated analysis of how mixed race young people in Hong Kong navigate readings of and carve out space for their raced bodies.

Finally, third place goes to the UCL submission on the impact of neighbourhood characteristics on the health of older adults. This was a very professionally designed and undertaken analysis of data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Again, well done to the authors of all submissions for producing such enlightening and well researched and written undergraduate dissertations.

David McCollum

University of St Andrews

August 2018

Report on dissertations entered for the Bob Woods Postgraduate Dissertation Prize 2017

There were two entries for the prize in 2017, one from the University of Liverpool and the other from the University of Leeds. Both submissions were excellent and contained content that is publishable. The Liverpool dissertation examined the highly pertinent topic of the demographic impact of Syrian migration in Germany. This was a sophisticated study with some outstanding elements. The content was well situated within the broader literature and contemporary population challenges. Cutting-edge population projection methods were employed and the dissertation was very well-articulated and academically engaged. The Leeds submission on the other hand explored another contemporary theme of policy relevance: the issue of boundary changes on electoral outcomes in Great Britain. This was a technically very strong and highly relevant piece of research, elements of which are potentially publishable. In my view the dissertation from Leeds was the slightly stronger of the two submissions and is therefore my suggestion for the Bob Woods Postgraduate Dissertation Prize.

David McCollum

St Andrews

January 2018

Appendix H Annual Report-Chair (Nissa Finney)

PopGRG AGM 2018 Chair's Report **Nissa Finney (University of St Andrews)** **August 2018**

This has been an active year for the group, and a successful one in relation to the key aims that were set at last year's AGM:

- To develop communications and engagement with members. In this regard the website and particularly the blog and Twitter have successfully broadened our reach and visibility.
- To hold an event to support Postgraduates and Early Career geographers. The engagement at the Postgraduate Forum including PG sponsorship gave us greater visibility than in recent years. However, there remains a gap in building a sense of a community of PH/EC Population Geographers.
- To hold a thematic headline event. The PopGRG/SCGRG pre AC 2018 workshop on 'Austerity Politics and the Changing Landscapes of Inequality' brought a diverse and engaged audience, stimulating presentations and thought provoking discussion. It was successful in raising the debate, profiling Population Geography and building links with SCGRG.

In addition to these activities, the core activities of the group have gone well this year. I'm particularly pleased to be giving more profile (via the website) to our prize winners and that the Annual Conference sessions attracted convenors and presenters who have not previously engaged with PopGRG.

Several group members participated in the Internal Migration event organised by BSPS and co-sponsored by PopGRG and this was a good example of collaboration between organisations. Thanks to Tony Champion for the initiative.

Over the year we've really progressed on many of the action points of the strategy (see revised strategy document at <https://popgeog.org>). I'd like to sincerely thank all members of the Committee, and other contributors to the blog and activities. I'm particularly grateful for the work this year because I have been on maternity leave and less able than usual to be involved.

For the year ahead I'd like to focus on membership, income generation to support activities, and support for career development, as well as maintaining the successful activities of this year.