

# **Population Geography Research Group 2022-23 AGM and annual reporting**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, online

## **Agenda for Meeting**

1. Apologies: Gemma Catney and Catherine Waite
2. Chairs Report (attached, Appendix A)
3. Officers Reports (attached, Appendices B to G)
  - To approve the accounts
  - Brief remarks and any discussion points
4. Talk from Paul Norman, Leeds: Census-based approaches to Deprivation Trajectories.
4. Committee Roles and Elections (Appendix H)

Group to discuss/agree committee roles, as highlighted in Appendix H

Elections, as highlighted in Appendix H

5. Outline and discuss proposed activities in 2023-2024
  - Writing group
  - Population geography ‘agenda’ events
  - Archiving project update
  - Other suggestions from wider population geography community
6. Conferences: 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Population Geographies at Queen's University Belfast in July 2024 and iMigMob at University of Aberystwyth in summer of 2025.
7. Any other business

PGRG informal gathering. 6:30pm Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Meet outside entrance to Royal College of Music on Prince Consort Road (opposite the Royal Albert Hall)

## **Appendix A Annual Report - Chair**

## Population Geography Research Group Chairs Report

As part of the planned activities for the 2022-2023 year, we sought to have a series of forward facing events that presented themes and discussions for population geographies towards the next 50 years. However, our activities have very much been situated within the context of UK higher education, of which two are of significant relevance: 1) the increased time pressures that UK academics are facing as part of the day job 2) the continued and escalating industrial action in UK higher education. As a result, the events we planned are taking place through existing structures of the RGS-IBG as opposed to stand alone events.

These are notably:

- Sessions as the RGS-IBG conference
- Discussion about the census as part of the AGM.

In addition, to the above we have:

- Continued the blog series on the population geographies website.
- Completed the Archiving Population Geography research project.

In population geography we also have the wider questions of what is population geography, but this question has been secondary this year. Our activities for the year continue to raise questions about the tensions between what is a research group for/who is the research group for/how can we protect the work-life balance of the committee members. The work of the group relies of the input of the committee members and I can only thank the committee this year for all the work they have put in.

I am standing down as Chair and the wider committee this year (a year early) due to an admin role I am taking on in my day job. I've been a committee member for 8 years now, 5 of which have been at the 'executive level' and the support of the committee(s) and the wider population geography community have been a highlight of my academic career. I'm looking forward to seeing what the research group does next.

Dr Sophie Cranston, Loughborough University, August 2023

## **Appendix B Annual Report – Treasurer**

## Statement of Account: 31 August 2022 – 21 August 2023

<b>Opening balance brought forward 31 August 2022</b>	£2,785.79
<b>Income</b>	
RGS-IBG Subvention (paid Dec 2022)	£260.00
<b>Total income</b>	£260.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Payment to Alan Bilton (PopGRG online Writing workshop)	£50.00
Giftcard for PopGRG Image competition judge S. Spence (paid by S.Shubin)	£20.00
PopGRG Joanna Stillwell prize (Lauren McDougall)	£50.00
PopGRG Bob Woods prize (Elliot Karikari)	£100.00
IMigMob conference bursary to Julie Fromentin (foreign payment)	£100.00
Lloyds Bank charge for foreign payment to Julie Fromentin	£15.00
PopGRG website domain address fee 2021 (paid By C. Johnson - Waite)	£19.20
PopGRG archival project – transcription costs (JC Porter Secretarial services)	£232.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	£586.20
<b>Deficit</b>	£326.20
<b>Closing balance carried forward 26 August 2021</b>	£2,459.59

The current report is for the period between 31 August 2022 and 21 August 2023, covering slightly shorter than one calendar year due to the dates of the 2023 PopGRG AGM.

There are now no outstanding payments that need to be made for the PopGRG activities completed during the last year. PopGRG completed three outstanding payments for the activities completed during the 2021-2022 financial year:

- 1) PopGRG provided a £20 thank you voucher to Pernille Spence, who judged the PopGRG Image Competition in 2022 and selected the winners. Payment for a £20 Amazon gift card to Pernille Spence made on 05 Sep 2022 by the Treasurer Sergei Shubin (who was reimbursed the cost of £20 on the same day).
- 2) Payment was made to Alan Bilton on 16 Sep 2022 for the PopGRG online writing workshop (part of PopGRG retreat) conducted on 4 July 2022.

3) As PopGRG took ownership of the IMigMob conference, it has also agreed to provide conference bursaries to selected participants. There was a delay with the payment of the bursary awarded to Julie Fromentin as this involved additional charges for international money transfer (the recipient only provided a French bank account). In consultation with RGS-IBG (Sarah Evans) and PopGRG Chair, it was decided that PopGRG would pay the bursary (£100) plus the fees levied by Lloyds bank for international transfers. The bank fees amounted to £15, making the total cost of paying the bursary at £115.

At the PopGRG AGM in August 2022 it was decided that in the future PopGRG will request all bursary/award recipients to provide UK bank accounts for receiving payments. If UK account cannot be provided, PopGRG would make it clear to the award recipients that it will only pay the indicated award amount, without covering the extra charges for international bank transfer (making the final received amount smaller).

As it stands, the Group's income was more than its expenditure (deficit) by £326.20. The overall end of year balance is £2459.59. The RGS-IBG subvention was the main sources of income.

We had communication with the former PopGRG Treasurer Nigel Walford, who kindly agreed to pay of £31.41 for his book royalties to the PopGRG account and attempted to make this payment by cheque. Unfortunately, this cheque bounced as it was addressed to the old name of the PopGRG account, which was subsequently changed. It was not possible to process and redirect this cheque before the current report was completed.

The account remains at the Lloyds Bank, Park Row, Leeds and no bank charges were incurred. The balance in the account is sufficient to cover anticipated expenditure over the next year.

Respectfully submitted by Prof. Sergei Shubin



Department of Geography, Swansea University  
[s.v.shubin@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:s.v.shubin@swansea.ac.uk)  
21 August 2023

## **Appendix C Annual Report – Communication Officers**

- Mailing List, kept up to date and used to circulate relevant updates, advertise RGS-IBG session calls etc.
- Social media using X (formally known as Twitter) continued, promoting the work of population geographers as well as POPGRG blogs and events.
- Continued to update Website and Blog posts.
- 8 Posts across the year, from Joanna Stillwell (UG) and Bob Woods (PGT) dissertation prize winners, as well as reflections from bursary holder for IMigMob 2022, Tribute, As well as topical blogs on both Student Mobility and Housing and Life course.
- Paula Duffy held a Population Geography writing group in Dec 2022, the intention was to continue with other volunteers from committee to host, but no further groups have yet been scheduled.

## **Appendix D Annual Report – Events Officer**

## RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2023

The Group sponsored the following sessions

Title	No. of slots	Organisers	Notes	In-person/online/hybrid?
Post-pandemic geographies of home and work	1	David McCollum		In-person
Brexit Reborderings: UK's changing Immigration and Border Regime in the Post-Brexit era	1	Kate Botterill Kathy Burrell	Co-sponsored with the Political Geography RG	Online
Inventive methods for research with mobile and displacement-affected populations	2	Ceri Oeppen; Marta Bivand Erdal		In-person
Vulnerable groups shaping Latin American cities	1	Maria Jesus Alfaro-Simmonds; Natan Waintrub Santibáñez	Co-sponsored with Latin American Geographies RG; Geographies of Children, Youth and Families RG; and Gender and Feminist Geographies RG.	Online
DYSTOPIA: film viewing and discussion	2	Sergei Shubin; Rhys Dafydd Jones	Film viewing and Q&A	In-person (viewing); Hybrid (Q&

The sponsored sessions consist of 7 slots across 5 sessions. There appeared to be a lower request for sponsorship this year, which (anecdotally) appears to be a common experience among other research groups. Consequently, we did not fill our full allocation of sponsored sessions. We may consider ways of encouraging more sponsorship applications for 2024.

The Group also adopted the practice of sponsoring one session when sessions sought sponsorship from more than one research groups to provide a broader range of sponsored sessions and to minimise situations where sessions held multiple sponsorships. However, we may wish to revise this approach for 2024 as we did not succeed to allocate our allowance of passes.

The Group also secured 5 guest passes for the following three people:

Jen Gill, actor and LGBTQIA+ activist (1 day)

Esther Mamadou, actor and human rights activist (1 day)

Samuel Sebastian, film-maker (3 days)

All three are participating in the DYSTOPIA film viewing and discussion session sponsored by the group. A final application was anticipated from another person associated with the film but did not materialise.

Again, requests for passes were very low, and we did not succeed in distributing our full allowance. We may also seek ways to promote this opportunity further in 2024.

Thanks, and best wishes,

Rhys

As usual thank you so much to everyone for your support of our dissertation prizes – it is always a pleasure to have the opportunity to see some brilliant examples of student work in the field. The winner of our Bob Woods Prize for their excellent postgraduate dissertation was Elliot Karikari from the University of Leeds. Elliot’s dissertation used 2021 census data to analyse the relationship between deprivation and access to health care in Ghana. A copy of Elliot’s dissertation and a summary of his work and its importance is available for everyone on our website. Due to the marking and assessment boycott we will continue to accept undergraduate dissertations towards our Joanna Stillwell Prize until the end of October, thank you to those who have already sent dissertations to me and I will keep these on file until then.

Suzanne Beech



Gemma Catney, August 2023

Our Memberships Officer manages and analyses memberships data, and encourages new and sustained membership of the research group, including through the promotion of the benefits of membership.

Please accept my sincere apologies for today's Population Geography Research Group (PopGRG) AGM, which I am unable to attend as I am away from my office.

My term as Memberships Officer has come to an end. Thank you to the team for an enjoyable period of service on the committee, and thanks to Sophie Cranston in particular for her excellent leadership as PopGRG Chair. May I wish my replacement all the very best in their new role. I will, of course, continue to support the PopGRG, including through the International Conference on Population Geographies, which will be hosted by Queen's University Belfast from Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd July 2024.

The PopGRG has a healthy and relatively steady membership of just under 150 people. There was a very slight decline in membership numbers in the period August 2022 to 2023, reflecting a continued trend of a small loss of members in the last few years. One of the future priorities for the committee might be to consider this small but steady loss. Is this common to other research groups? What are the reasons for leaving the group? I undertook some initial analysis along these lines and found that our group's patterns of retention/loss were not unusual, but this could be updated and explored in more depth.

We are delighted to have welcomed several new members this academic year, including Postgraduate Fellows. We do not currently have a consistent approach to welcoming new members, and this might be something the new Memberships Officer could consider implementing.

In last year's report I noted that we aimed to explore synergies between research groups, building on PopGRG's 50th anniversary celebration event in 2021. The Memberships Officer could have a distinctive role in this exercise, in considering membership of which research groups are most commonly held alongside PopGRG membership, and how best to build on these relationships.

## **Appendix G Annual Report – Postgraduate Officer**

Odhran Fox – Postgraduate Officer – 2022-2023

E: fox-o1@ulster.ac.uk

My role within the committee is to promote the interests of early career researchers and postgraduates within research group activities. Through this role I must ensure that our activities are open to, and encourage, participation from ECRs. This year, I feel that I haven't carried out much within my role, partly due to the broader operations of our research group this year, where there was little scope for any pressure to be placed on ECRs with all opportunities, such as writing groups, open to all members. Again, my role also includes supporting wider research group initiatives which I am sure I will be able to help with going forward, especially in facilitating writing group sessions that we discussed.

Further, within my role, I wrote a short blog post about my own early research for the website's blog. This outlined some interesting thoughts on international Student Mobility, post-Brexit, and also evidences the groups willingness to include and disseminate the work of post-graduate researchers and ECRs.

Odhran Fox

## **Appendix H: Committee roles and elections**

## Current role holders on Committee

Name	Email	Committee Position	Term dates
Sophie Cranston	s.cranston@lboro.ac.uk	Chair	2021-2024
David McCollum	David.McCollum@st-andrews.ac.uk	Secretary	2022-2025
Sergei Shubin	s.v.shubin@swansea.ac.uk	Treasurer	2021-2024
Gemma Catney	G.Catney@qub.ac.uk	Membership Officer	2021-2023
Kate Botterill	Katherine.Botterill@glasgow.ac.uk	Events Officer	2022-2024
Rhys Dafydd Jones	rhj@aber.ac.uk	Events Officer	2022-2024
Suzanne Beech	s.beech@ulster.ac.uk	Prizes and Awards Officer	2021-2023
Catherine Waite	Catherine.Waite@northampton.ac.uk	Communications Officer	2021-2023
Paula Duffy	Paula.Duffy@abdn.ac.uk	Communications Officer	2021-2023
Odhran Fox	Fox-O1@ulster.ac.uk	Postgraduate Officer	2021-2023

The following posts are up for re-election this year. In accordance with RGS regulations, these roles were advertised.

Chair: Sophie is standing down. David McCollum has volunteered to replace her. No other Expressions of Interest (EoI) received thus far. If David takes up this role then the Secretary role will become vacant and will need to be filled.

Communications Officer: Paula is standing down. Bozena Sojka has volunteered to replace her. No other Expressions of Interest (EoI) received thus far. Catherine is about to go on leave, so her term will be extended by a year.

Membership Officer: Gemma is standing down. No Expressions of Interest (EoI) received thus far.

Early Career Researcher Officer: Odhrán currently holds this role and is willing to continue.

Prizes: according to the table above (taken from our website) the Prizes role is due for renewal. However this was actually the case last year and Suzanne kindly agreed to stay on in post. Website to be updated asap.