

*Minutes for the Business Meeting*  
*2008 AAG Meeting in Boston*  
**Ethnic Geography Specialty Group**

**Session 3326, Grand Ballroom Salon K, 11:55am-12:55pm Thursday April 17, 2008**

**Chair:** Wei Li (Arizona State University)

**Vice Chair:** Emily Skop (University of Texas at Austin)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** James Smith (Towson University)

**Board of Directors:**

Joy Adams (California State University, Humboldt)

John Frazier (University of Binghamton)

Susan Hume (University of Southern Illinois at Edwardsville)

David Kaplan (Kent State University)

Wei Li (Arizona State University)

Emily Skop (University of Texas at Austin)

Heather Smith (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

James Smith (Towson University)

Ezra Zeitler, student representative (University of Nebraska at Lincoln)

**Webmaster:** Ezra Zeitler ([EzraZeitler@rocketmail.com](mailto:EzraZeitler@rocketmail.com)) (University of Nebraska at Lincoln)

1. Introduction of new members of EGSG who are attending the business meeting.

Nancy K. Torrieri, US Census Bureau-overview of American Community Survey

2. Approval of Minutes for the business meeting of EGSG during the 2007 San Francisco AAG meeting. James Smith (Towson University)

**Addendum:** Joy Adams elected to Board. Approved by acclamation.

Lawrence Estaville-on point of order, seconded by John Frazier, put forward motion to formulate new bylaws.

Wei-copy was not found, so problem is acknowledged. Dave Kaplan-proposed discussion on committee. LE-opportunity to bring bylaws to present, and place on website. Proposed subcommittee of 3-5 members. Jim Allen-on need for formal bylaws; LE-bylaws in accord with AAG practice. JF-propose to close debate. Motion for committee passed.

Volunteers: Lawrence, Linda Fair (Binghamton University) and Heather.

3. EGSG has 28 sponsored sessions for the 2008 AAG meetings. This compares with 29 in 2007, 18 in 2006, and 15 in 2005.

John-encouraged all to attend and join EGSG; participate AND Join;

4. Membership report – John Frazier: EGSG has 181 members as of 4/11/08, of which 110 are regular members and 71 are student members; compared to 187 members last year (114 regular and 73 students). EGSG has 21 international members, including 1 each from Germany, Japan, Switzerland, and Turkey; 2 from Australia, 3 from UK, and 12 from Canada.

5. Treasurer's Report – Jim Smith: the balance in EGSG's bank account was \$ 531.

JMS-report based on decreased revenues for Miami conference; our normal amount is about \$1,000 at AAG, but \$500 for REP was necessary for co-sponsorship.

Lawrence Estaville-made a commitment to replace \$500 for Race, Ethnicity and Place money.

6. Report on the EGSG Newsletter – Tom Boswell sent electronic copy to all members prior to Boston meeting.

7. Report on EGSG's Web Site – Ezra Zeitler ([unl.edu/geography/ethnic](http://unl.edu/geography/ethnic))

8. Report on EGSG's Student Paper Competition – Susan Hume on behalf of Joy Adams

Susan-strong papers for the competition; thanks to Joy Adams for organizing.

Alan Marcus-winner, from UMass –Amherst

**Title:** "An Ethnic Geography of Brazilian Immigrants in the United States, and Immigrant Returnees in Brazil"

9. Report on the Best Dissertation Proposal award – Heather Smith

Two submissions, both strong; some questions about the length of the papers.

Winner: Tatiana Matejskova-U of Minnesota

10. Report on EGSG's Distinguished Scholar Award – Dave Kaplan

Ceri Peach is DS for this year; nominations solicited; Frederick Boal has been selected as DS for Las Vegas AAG in 2009

11. Report on Specialty Group chair meeting – Wei Li

Platform for new president, John Agnew: integrating the various subdisciplines within Geography (Physical, Human etc.); Discussion of registration fee and child care issues; fees will not be reduced due to increasing costs and sliding scale for different memberships will be retained; AAG manages SGs finances; email listings, insure that current email address is submitted with annual membership; more than 7000 registered for Boston meeting; AAG has created an AAG Developing Regions Program-\$20 membership for those from eligible countries; Journals-we can request electronic only

Lawrence Estaville-EGSG has traditional ties to CGSG; new, Business Geography SG; encouraged to collaborate with this group, especially for those who research ethnic business;

12. **Election of a new** Secretary/Treasurer: the term expires for one member, Wei Li (reelected since 1996).

Lawrence nominates Eugene Tetty-Fio, he declines; LE noted importance of having African-American Board member; John Frazier nominates Ian Yeboah, who is currently not present, who is willing to stand as new Board member. LE nominates Heather who respectfully declines at the present time; Carlos Texeira nominates Stavros Constantini, who was acclaimed by voice.

13. Honoring James Allen – Wei Li

Lawrence Estaville proposed to honor Jim Allen, who has now retire from CSUN; Jim Allen was the second Chair of the group; Jim Allen: expressed pleasure at the creation of the group by Lawrence Estaville; he emphasized the importance of the group to scholarship and intellectual endeavor; he emphasized the importance of the mutually-supportive nature of the EGSG community.

LE-he has set the bar for ethnic geography; as a teacher and with service to the community;

14. EGSG by-law – Wei Li: see no.2;

15. Announcement REP IV – John Frazier and Lawrence Estaville; John praised Lawrence and Texas State for last REP Conference; Lawrence honored John for starting conference; John noted participation of Donna Shalala, who is president of U of Miami

16. A proposal to establish a new ‘Distinguished Ethnic Geographer Career Award’ – Lawrence Estaville; discussion: Carlos Texeira strongly supports proposition; award should combine scholarship with involvement with EGSG; **Heather supported the motion.**

Award approved by voice acclamation.

Lawrence Estaville proposes to have email votes for all but selection of officers.

Approved by voice.

17. Suggestions for paper sessions and field trips for the 2009 AAG meeting in Las Vegas

18. Other business?

**Informational Items:**

- Congratulations to Ceri Peach (Oxford University, UK) for receiving the 2008 Ethnic Geography Distinguished Scholar award. **Robert Putnam and David Ley serve as discussants for the DS lecture.**
- EGSG’s former chair and long-time member Carlos Teixeira, EGSG member Valerie Preston, and EGSG 2000 student award recipient Ranu Basu, along with Daniel Hiebert, served as plenary panellists in the recent Canadian 10<sup>th</sup> National Metropolis Conference in Halifax. Congrats on geographers’ prominent roles in Canadian international migration research!
- EGSG’s website is: [www.unl.edu/geography/ethnic](http://www.unl.edu/geography/ethnic). Thanks to Ezra Zeitler (University of Nebraska at Lincoln) for serving as our webmaster.
- If you are not on the Listserv for EGSG, or you have changed your e-mail address please contact the AAG at [www.AAG.org](http://www.AAG.org). The AAG is now maintaining EGSG’s e-mail list. Be sure to let them know that you want your correct e-mail address added to the listserv and mailing lists for EGSG.

- **Congratulations to Ezra for obtaining the new identity of Dr. Zeitler!!!**