

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Newsletter, Fall 2018

Editor: Paul N. McDaniel (Kennesaw State University)

Contents

Greetings from the EGSG Chair	1
EGSG Member News.....	2
EGSG Member Recent Publications	4
2018 Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference in Austin, Texas.....	6
EGSG Mission Statement.....	8
EGSG Officers and Standing Committees	8
EGSG Website	9
Submissions to the EGSG Newsletter.....	9



*Paul McDaniel, Heather Smith, Susan Hume,
and Madhuri Sharma at REP 2018 in Austin*

**Visit EGSG Online at:
ethnicgeography.com**

Greetings from the EGSG Chair



A warm greeting to all Ethnic Geography Specialty Group members! The EGSG also extends a special welcome to all our new members and our student members. The Ethnic Geography Specialty Group is a vibrant and active community of

scholars from all over the world with diverse backgrounds and research interests. We invite new members to be part of this exciting specialty group. We recently saw many members at the 2018 Race, Ethnicity, and Place conference in Austin, Texas, in October, and we look forward to seeing both new and established members at the 2019 meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Washington, DC!

The EGSG currently has more than 200 members. As an active specialty group, the EGSG sponsored 23 paper and 6 panel sessions at the 2018 New Orleans meeting last April. As you begin to plan for the 2019 meeting in Washington DC, we encourage you to seek the EGSG's sponsorship for sessions! As current members, invite your colleagues to join the EGSG and feel free to collaborate with new scholars and scholars from this and other specialty groups. Our annual membership dues are \$10 for members and \$3 for student members. Check out our EGSG website at <https://ethnicgeography.com>.

The Ethnic Geography Specialty Group is a proud and longstanding supporter of the Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conferences (REP). The 2018 REP Conference recently took place on October 23-25 at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin, Texas. It was a successful REP with great

representation from the EGSG! Look for more information on the 2018 REP in the newsletter.

This year the AAG has offered specialty groups the opportunity for poster sessions at the 2019 meeting. These poster sessions are a great presentation format for those who are new to AAG meetings or first-time presenters. Those presenting a poster also have a decreased registration fee. The deadline for registering for the poster session is January 31, 2019. Please follow this link for more information about the poster sessions.

http://annualmeeting.aag.org/AAGAnnualMeeting/Poster_Sessions.aspx

If you are interested in presenting a poster, please email me at emontalvo@cameron.edu or Wan Yu at wyu@binghamton.edu with your title and AAG pin!

As always, our members constitute the strength and enthusiasm of this group. Make plans to bring a friend or colleague to our business meeting (date and time to be announced) and introduce them to our active and dynamic group. I look forward to seeing each of you in April. Happy holidays!

- *Edris Montalvo*

**Like EGSG on Facebook at:
[facebook.com/EthnicSpecialtyGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/EthnicSpecialtyGroup/)**

EGSG Member News

Editor's Note: These are the news items of note that were submitted to the EGSG Newsletter or that we are aware of. We rely on our readers to keep us informed about their exciting activities so we can list them here. We know there are many members engaged in a wide variety of ethnic geography activities. Please send your news items for the newsletter to Paul McDaniel (pmcdan11@kennesaw.edu) because such news reflects well on you and the EGSG as a vibrant academic organization.

Fenda Akiwumi (University of South Florida) has been awarded the 2018 American Association of Geographers Harm J. de Blij Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography Teaching. This annual award recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching undergraduate geography including the use of innovative teaching methods. Fenda has already been recognized with an Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award from the University of South Florida and a Higher Education Teaching Award from the National Council for Geographic Education. She has taken students to Ghana and Guyana, and also teaches at USF's Honors College, where she has directed a number of undergraduate theses. The Assistant Dean of the Honors College notes that Fenda is "...the rare faculty member who views teaching, service, and research not as discreet categories, but as threads woven into a larger vocation." Students have described her as passionate, inspiring and relatable. One former student writes, "Professors like her open the door to knowledge and not simply information. I could not think of an educator more worthy of this award." In August 2018, Fenda was appointed the new Director of the Institute on Black Life and Center for Africa and the Diaspora at the University of South Florida. The mission of the Institute on Black Life and Center for Africa and the Diaspora is to serve as a resource center on the history and culture of the Black experience in Africa and the African Diaspora.

Debanuj DasGupta (University of Connecticut) is now board Co-Chair of the Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies (<https://clags.org/>) and is also an Appointed Member of the Salzburg Global Forum. Recent awards and grants include the Social Science Research Council; Junior Scholar Award in TransRegional Studies; and Inter-Asian Linkages. This award supports a new project that interrogates the changing nature of state recognition for diverse transgender communities in South & South East Asia.

José R. Díaz-Garayúa (California State University, Stanislaus) received a research grant for a project to examine human-environment

relations through the lens of environmental justice. Primarily, this research will examine Local Indicators of Airborne Particulate Matter in Turlock, California. The longitudinal data will be examined and contrasted to other environmental and socio-economic variables. This research has been sponsored by California State University, Stanislaus Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee with an award of \$7,352. He will also be teaching a course on Ethnic Geography in Spring 2020.

John Frazier (Binghamton University) has been nominated for the position of Vice President of the American Association of Geographers.

Wei Li (Arizona State University) is continuing her service as chair of the Honors Committee of the American Association of Geographers for 2018-2019. In 2018, she delivered several invited lectures: "Intellectual Migration and Brain Circulation: Conceptual Framework and Empirical Evidence" at Southern China Normal University, Guangzhou, China, November 12 and at the Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement, Ryerson University, Canada, April 30. She also made several invited presentations: "Intellectual Migration: considering China" (Wei Li, Lucia Lo, Yixi Lu, Yining Tan, and Lu Zheng) at the International Workshop on China in an Era of Mobilities: New Theoretical Dialogues on Migration, in Guangzhou, China, in November; "Chinese and Indian Immigration to the U.S.: Demographic, Socioeconomic Profiles and New Minority Depository Institutions" (Wei Li and Lucia Lo) at Symposium: Social Networks in a Transnational World: Chinese and Indian Entrepreneurs in the United States, at UCLA Anderson Business School, Co-organized by UCLA Asia Pacific Center and UCLA Center for India and South Asia, in October; and "Writing for Success in the Academy", at the Early Career Mentoring Workshop, at the Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference, in October in Austin, Texas. In addition to these activities, she delivered presentations at a variety of conferences in 2018.

Alan Marcus (Towson University) received three awards in 2017-2018: (1) Lord Baltimore Fellowship awarded by the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore. (2) Grant Award by Towson University College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant for Fieldwork Research travel to Brazil. These grants were for research toward his upcoming book manuscript (in review): *When Confederates Immigrated to Brazil: The "Baltimore Connection" and How Trade, Ideology, Scientists, and Religious Leaders Fueled the Exodus of Thousands of U.S. Southerners to Brazil*. (3) Towson University Diversity Fellowship was awarded by the Office of the Provost at Towson University to develop a course he created to teach at Towson University: "The Geography of Blues: The Mississippi Delta and its Transatlantic Connections."

Paul McDaniel (Kennesaw State University) has been a Co-PI on a community engagement project during 2017-2018 in partnership among faculty at Kennesaw State University, several Atlanta-area public high schools, Green Card Voices, the Latin American Association, and Welcoming America, that culminated in May with the launch of a new book authored by immigrant high school students: *Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from an Atlanta High School*. The book is a collection of 30 personal essays written by high school students in the Atlanta area. This is the first book in the series focused on a metro area in the southeastern United States. In August, he and his co-PIs were awarded a National Geographic Society grant related to the Society's RFP for "Documenting Human Migrations" for the purposes of advancing and assessing this project's impact in 2019. Follow Paul on Twitter at @pnmcdaniel.

Selima Sultana (University of North Carolina at Greensboro) will be a co-editor for the journal *Southeastern Geographer* beginning July 2019. She has also received a Faculty First grant from UNC-Greensboro to understand African American interest in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) and reasons for both visiting and not visiting the park.

EGSG Member Recent Publications

Members of the EGSG have been busy throughout 2018 publishing a variety of books, edited volumes, peer-reviewed articles, reports, and other pieces for dissemination. We highlight a few of these works here. **Editor's Note:** These are the only publications that were submitted to the EGSG Newsletter. We rely on our readers to keep us informed about their publications, so we can list them here. We know there are far more publications from the EGSG membership than shown in this list. If you would like for us to include your recent publications in the next EGSG newsletter, please send your publication citations to Paul McDaniel (pmcdan11@kennesaw.edu) as soon as they are published as this reflects well on you as a scholar and EGSG as a vibrant academic organization.

DasGupta, Debanuj and Rohit K. Dasgupta. 2018. "Being Out of Place: Racialization and Queer Non-Belonging in the UK." *Emotions, Space, and Society*. <https://bit.ly/2OX8pmE>.

Dasgupta, Rohit K. and Debanuj DasGupta. 2018. *Queering Digital India: Activisms, Identities, Subjectivities*. Edinburgh University Press. <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-queering-digital-india-hb.html>.

Díaz-Garayúa, José R., and Carlos J. Guilbe-López (accepted). "Confronting Styles and Scales in Puerto Rico: Comprehensive vs. Participative Planning under a Colonial Estate." In *Urban and Regional Planning and Development 20th Century Transformations*. Edited by Ashok Dutt, Sudhir Thakur, George Pomeroy, and Rajiv Thakur. Springer, Netherlands.

Díaz-Garayúa, José R. 2017. "Contemporary Ethnic Geographies in America." *Journal of Social and Cultural Geography* 19, 2: 299-300. [Book Review].

Godfrey, Brian J. 2018. "Remembering Rio: From the Imperial Palace to the African Heritage Circuit." In *The City as Power: Urban Space, Place, and National Identity*. Edited by Alexander Diener and Joshua Hagan. Rowman & Littlefield. 105-120.

Li, Wei, Shengnan Zhao, Lu Zheng, Wan Yu, and Xiaojie Li. 2018. "Intellectual Migration and Implication: Evidence from Chinese Student Migration." *International Migration*, doi: 10.1111/imig.12466.

Li, Wei, Kanika Bakshi, Xuanyu Huang, and Yining Tan. 2018. "Policies for Recruiting Talented Professionals from the Diaspora: India and China Compared." *International Migration*, doi: 10.1111/imig.12456.

Li, Wei, Claudia Sadowski-Smith, and Wan Yu. 2018. "Return migration and transnationalism: evidence from highly-skilled migration." *Papers in Applied Geography*, doi.org/10.1080/23754931.2017.1396553.

McDaniel, Paul N. 2018. "Shared Humanity, City Branding, and Municipal Immigrant Integration Initiatives in the Southeastern United States." *Southeastern Geographer*, 58, 3: 250-281.

McDaniel, Paul N., Darlene Xiomara Rodriguez, and Anna Joo Kim. 2018. "Creating a Welcoming Metro Atlanta: A Regional Approach to Immigrant Integration." *Atlanta Studies*. April 26, 2018.

Ortiz-Loyola, Brenda L. and José R. Díaz-Garayúa (accepted). "La Monoestrellada and the Display of Identity Politics in Puerto Rico: Cultural Activism and Placemaking in 78 Pueblos y 1 Bandera." In *Events, Places and Societies*. Edited by Nick Wise and John Harris. Routledge, UK.

Rodriguez, Darlene Xiomara, Paul N. McDaniel, and Marie Dominique-Ahebee. 2018. "Welcoming America: A Case Study of Municipal Immigrant Integration, Receptivity, and Community Practice." *Journal of Community Practice*, 3: 348-357.

Sharma, Madhuri. 2018. Community Perspectives on Neighborhood Characteristics and Home-Buying Decisions. *International Journal of Geospatial and Environmental Research*, 5, 1: Article 3, 1-33. <https://dc.uwm.edu/ijger/vol5/iss1/3/>.

Sharma, Madhuri. 2018. Economic Growth Potentials and Race/Ethnicity in Tennessee: Diversity and Economy. *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*, 9, 2: 33-54. doi: <https://www.igi-global.com/viewtitlesample.aspx?id=198484>.

Zheng, Lu, Wei Li, Ming-Ming Li, and Yi-Xuan Chen. 2018. "Destination China: International Students in Chengdu." *International Migration*. doi: 10.1111/imig.12464.



Marie Price, Elizabeth Chacko, and their students at the REP 2018 conference in Austin, Texas

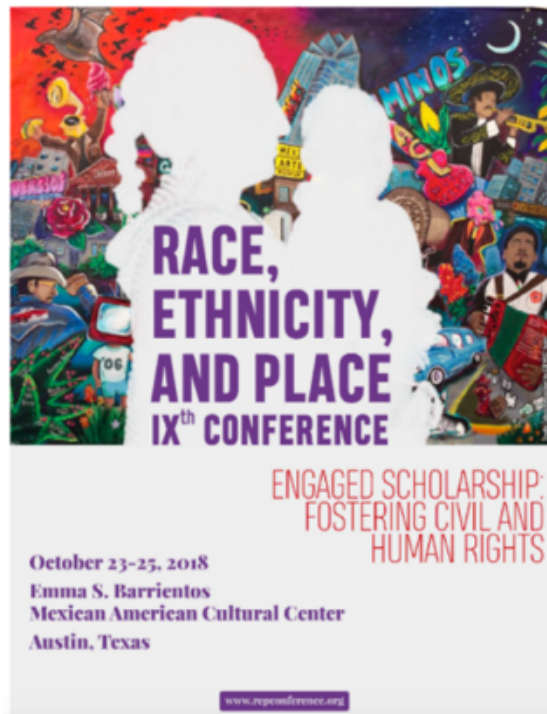
2018 Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference in Austin, Texas

From October 23-25, 2018, the IX biennial Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference, with a focus on “Engaged Scholarship: Fostering Civil and Human Rights,” took place at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center in downtown Austin, Texas. The conference was a collaboration among the Texas State University, the University of Texas at Austin, the City of Austin, and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The conference brought together over 235 participants, over half of whom were from groups historically underrepresented in academia. They were from twenty-six states and eight countries. The host institutions had very strong representation: 38 presenters from University of Texas at Austin and 40 presenters from Texas State. The conference kicked off with an NSF-sponsored pre-conference Early Career Mentorship Workshop themed “Surviving and Thriving in the Academy” that consisted of 27 early career scholars and 13 senior scholar mentors. The workshop included panels focused on achieving success at writing, research, and publishing, small breakout groups, a talk on finding and applying for grants by Tom Baerwald of the NSF, and sessions on applying for tenure-track jobs and achieving tenure and promotion.



Opening reception at REP 2018 in Austin



The two other days of the conference involved 50 separate paper and panel sessions on topics as diverse as gentrification and community resilience, natural disaster recovery, diversity, inclusion and ethnic studies initiatives on college campuses, immigration and refugees, health disparities, human-environment interactions, criminalization and human rights, and cultural and ethnic identity. The conference also featured panels that allowed for in-depth discussion on topics such as teaching race and ethnicity, advancing women in geography, methodological and theoretical diversity in the discipline of geography, international field work, supporting historically black serving institutions, and more. Powerful keynote speakers concluded the conference days. On Wednesday, associate professor of the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies and Vice Provost of Diversity at The University of Texas at Austin Dr. Edmund Gordon provided a deeper context for the controversy around confederate statue removal and name changes in Austin and across the U.S. South. Closing out the conference on Thursday were two inspiring addresses given by Christina Tzintzún Ramírez and Rebecca Flores. Ms. Tzintzún spoke of the importance of finding your voice, and Ms. Flores traced the history of



farm worker organizing from the early days of Cesar Chavez to the present through her own vast experience as an organizer for the Texas United Farm Workers. All speakers spoke to this year's conference theme: "Engaged Scholarship: Fostering Civil and Human Rights".

We were also able to impart upon participants a sense (and taste!) of the City of Austin. Meals were catered by locally-owned restaurants including TacoDeli, the Tamale House, La BBQ, Hoover's Cooking, and Hecho en Mexico. Local artists Javier Jara, Austin's Bronze Band Community Project, and mariachi bands from Texas State University and Wallace Middle School provided wonderful music. On the Friday following the conference, field trips led by local experts provided conference-goers with the opportunity to experience Austin's unique cultural and social geographies: UT's racial geographies (led by Dr. Ted Gordon), Austin's ethnic museums (led by Laura Esparza), Austin's cultural murals (led by Frederico Geib), and Historic Black East Austin (led by Harrison Eppright of SixSquare).

The conference would not have been possible without the generous support of so many institutions, academic departments, and private donors. In addition to a National Science Foundation grant, both Texas State and the University of Texas at Austin raised \$10,500. Thanks to a multitude of academic departments, research centers, and university offices and colleges. The City of Austin covered the cost of the venue, and private donations covered 22 graduate students' participation (in the form of waived registration and travel stipends).

Additionally, universities across the country contributed with co-sponsorships (see REP website), and many have already committed to future collaboration. We are extremely grateful for all this support.

Planning for the X REP Conference is underway – mark your calendars for October 2020. The Tenth REP will be held in Baltimore, Maryland in collaboration with Joe Wood (University of Baltimore) and Mark Barnes (Morgan State University). Keep an eye on developments at www.repconference.org.

- Sarah Blue



John Frazier and panel discussion session at REP 2018 in Austin



Panel discussion session at REP 2018 in Austin

EGSG Mission Statement

To promote the common interests of persons working in ethnic geography, to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas within the AAG, and to encourage members in their research and teaching of ethnic experiences from comparative, national/transnational and global perspectives.

EGSG Officers and Standing Committees

Past Chair:

Madhuri Sharma, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2016-2018

Current Chair:

Edris Montalvo, Cameron University, 2018-2020

Vice Chair:

Elizabeth Chacko, George Washington University, 2018-2020

Secretary-Treasurer:

Wan Yu, Binghamton University, 2018-2020

Board of Directors:

Jay Newberry, Binghamton University, 2017-2019

Paul McDaniel, Kennesaw State University, 2017-2019

Holly Barcus, Macalester College, 2018-2020

Debanuj Dasgupta, University of Connecticut, 2018-2020

Qingfang Wang, University of California, Riverside, 2018-2020

José Diaz Garayua, California State University, Stanislaus, 2018-2020

Weronika Kusek, Northern Michigan University, 2018-2020

EGSG Awards Committee

(Responsible for Distinguished Ethnic Geography Scholar, Outstanding Ethnic Geography Service, and Outstanding Ethnic Geography Career Awards)

Carlos Teixeira, University of British Columbia, Okanagan, 2017-2019

Stavros Constantinou, Ohio State University, 2017-2019

Emily Skop, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, 2017-2019

John Frazier, Binghamton University, 2018-2020

Shaolu Yu, Rhodes College, 2018-2020

Outstanding Ethnic Geography Dissertation Proposal Committee

Selima Sultana, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, 2017-2019

Susan Hume, Southern Illinois University, 2018-2020

Sean Crotty, Texas Christian University, 2018-2020

Outstanding Ethnic Geography Student Paper Committee

Kanika Verma, Independent Scholar, 2017-2019

Jay Newberry, Binghamton University, 2017-2019

Michael Webb, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2018-2020

AAG Program Committee

Edris Montalvo, Cameron University, 2018-2020

Wan Yu, Binghamton University, 2017-2019

Fenda Akiwumi, University of South Florida, 2018-2020

Website Committee

Michael Webb, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2017-2019

Matt Cook, Eastern Michigan University, 2018-2020

Newsletter Committee

Paul McDaniel, Kennesaw State University, 2018-2020 (Newsletter Editor)

Student Committee

Scott Markley, University of Georgia, 2018-2020

John Ponstingel, Binghamton University, 2018-2020

Yining Tan, Arizona State University, 2018-2020

EGSG Website

EGSG activities and latest news, achievements, memberships, etc. are available on its website: <https://ethnicgeography.com/>. In the 2016 business meeting of the EGSG at AAG in San Francisco, the members and committees approved the development of a new and improved website that is hosted by an independent link. Our website is being managed by co-webmasters Matt Cook (Eastern Michigan University) and Michael Webb (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill). Feel free to connect with them if you need any assistance with posting jobs or other updates that need EGSG focus. Also visit EGSG on Facebook at @EthnicSpecialtyGroup (<http://www.facebook.com/EthnicSpecialtyGroup/>).

Submissions to the EGSG Newsletter

If you would like to submit an item for the next EGSG Newsletter, please email your story to Paul McDaniel at pmcdan11@kennesaw.edu. Examples of contributions for inclusion in the newsletter include:

- Professional updates
- News from the field
- New jobs, tenure and promotion announcements
- Appointments to notable committees
- Recent publications
- Research grants
- Highlights/photos from EGSG events this year (such as AAG and REP)
- Information about upcoming EGSG events
- “Who’s teaching ethnic geography?”
- Op-ed or book review
- Other relevant updates



Heather Smith, Paul McDaniel, and graduate student presenters at REP 2018 in Austin, Texas

**See you at the 2019
American Association of
Geographers annual
conference in April in
Washington, DC!**