

**Draft Minutes for the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group (EGSG) Meeting at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Chicago, IL**

**Session 4737, Wrigley, Hyatt, West Tower, Bronze Level, 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM, Friday, 4/24/2015**

**Ethnic Geography Specialty Group (EGSG)**

**Past Chair:** Heather Smith (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

**Chair:** Heike Alberts (University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh)

**Vice Chair:** Madhuri Sharma (University of Tennessee)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Edris Montalvo (Cameron University)

**2014-2015 Board of Directors**

Holly Barcus

Paul McDaniel

Michael Webb

Qingfang Wang

Fenda Akiwumi

Carlos Guilbe

Alan Marcos

Graciela Sandoval

1. Call to order by Chair Alberts:
  - a. Welcome to all.
2. Chairs' Comments
  - a. Chair Alberts recognized Florence Margai and spoke about the session in her honor at the AAG meeting. Her impact at Binghamton University, the Association of American Geographers, and on her colleagues was emphasized. Chair Alberts noted that Dr. Margai was posthumously awarded the EGSG Career award and that Norah Henry (Chair of the Department of Geography at Binghamton University) would accept it at the awards banquet. Lawrence Estaville moved that the EGSG formally recognize Florence Margai and her contributions. Seconded by Norah Henry. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Sessions honoring the careers of Harm De Blij and Larry Brown were also discussed.
  - c. New member introductions.
3. Approval of minutes for the 2014 EGSG business meeting in Tampa, Florida.
  - a. Motion to approve by Lawrence Estaville, seconded by John Frazier. Motion passed.
4. Chair Alberts reports from the AAG Chair's Meeting
  - a. Some 8,907 individuals registered for the 2015 AAG meeting with a total of 6,689 papers.
  - b. AAG name change approved to the American Association of Geographers.
  - c. Specialty group selection for the AAG is now year round rather than only at the time of membership renewal.
  - d. Format for the poster sessions changed.

- e. Chair Alberts also recognized the student committee started under the leadership of Heather Smith and Graciela Sandoval for helping organize the over 30 sessions sponsored by the EGSG.
- 5. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
  - a. Montalvo reported that at the time of the meeting, the ESGS balance was \$2012.17. This included deductions for the 2015 EGSG student awards and reimbursements for plaques. It was noted that the current financial status of the EGSG was healthy.
- 6. EGSG Newsletter Report
  - a. Editors commended for their good work. In years when the REP conference takes place, there will now be two newsletters.
  - b. Issues regarding the readability of the newsletter were reportedly solved. Submissions to the newsletter were encouraged.
- 7. EGSG Student Paper Competition and Dissertation Proposal Awards
  - a. Jay Newberry announced the winner of the EGSG Student Paper Competition as Shaolu Yu from the University of Connecticut out of more than 10 submissions. Her paper was titled, "(Im)mobilities of Chinese Immigrants in Flushing, New York."
  - b. Shaolu thanked Wei Li and Priscilla McCutcheon
  - c. Qingfang Wang announced the winner of the Dissertation Proposal Award out of 3 submissions. The winner was Kathryn Wright from the University of Colorado – Boulder for her proposal, "A Case Study of the Impact of U.S. Based Senegalese Migrant's Translocal Identities on their Development Efforts".
- 8. Carlos Teixeira provided an overview of the EGSG Awards.
  - a. The 2016 distinguished scholar award winner is John Frazier.
  - b. The 2015 Distinguished Career Award winners are Florence Margai (posthumous) and Joe Darden.
  - c. Plaques were distributed to previous Service Award winners (Lawrence Estaville, John Frazier, Carlos Teixeira, Ira Sheskin, Tom Boswell, Wei Li) as they had not been recognized until then.
- 9. Chair Alberts discusses previous and continuing EGSG sponsorship of the REP meetings.
  - a. EGSG unanimously approved full sponsorship of 2016 REP VIII meeting at Kent State (\$1,000).
- 10. Report about REP VII
  - a. Sean Crotty (TCU) reported that all including the faculty at TCU considered the conference a great success. He reported that the TCU faculty especially enjoyed and appreciated the interdisciplinary view.
  - b. John Frazier added that the expected attendance at REP VIII would be 400 individuals. The meeting will be at the Kent State. Fieldtrips are being planned. John will have a site visit in late June and provide a report for the Fall EGSG newsletter. The reserved room block of 96 rooms at the Kent State hotel will go fast. The Holiday Inn Express is the backup hotel. REP VIII will be 21-23 September 2016.
  - c. Lawrence Estaville noted that it should be ensured that no regional meetings conflict with REP VIII.
- 11. Other Business
  - a. Chair Alberts encouraged ideas for special sessions to be organized for the 2016 AAG meeting in San Francisco and to email the EGSG program committee with suggestions. She also encouraged ideas for any EGSG fieldtrips.

- b. Chair Alberts mentioned the EGSG online bibliography and encouraged submissions to [www.zotero.org](http://www.zotero.org); login: Ethnic Geography; Password: AAG2015.

12. Items from the floor

- a. On behalf of Dave Kaplan, Wei Li talked about the submission process for the Geographical Review (7 weeks from submission to publication).
- b. John Frazier spoke about attracting authors to write about race and proposing a special issue on race.
- c. Ezra Zeitler mentioned the EGSG webpage and Jose Diaz Garayua was recognized for his work on the webpage.
- d. Lawrence Estaville made a motion to recognize the current Chair Heike Alberts for her outstanding job as Chair of the EGSG during her first year. John seconded. Motion passed.

13. EGSG Elections:

- a. Ballots were passed out and Edris Montalvo counted the ballots later. The results of the elections and the new members who will serve for 2015-2017 are as follows:

**Board of Directors:**

Stavros Constantinou  
Sean Crotty  
Elizabeth Chacko

**Awards Committee:**

John Frazier  
Carlos Teixeira  
Elizabeth Chacko  
Kanika Verma

**Dissertation Proposal Committee:**

Susan Hardwick  
Paul McDaniel

**Paper Committee:**

Reuben Allen  
Michael Webb

**Website Committee:**

Jose Diaz Garayua  
Amelia Laurel Schubert

**Student Representative:**

Kathryn Wright

14. Adjourned