

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting

Date: 4/18/2024

Time: 4:40 PM - 5:40 PM Hawaii Time

Room: 308B Hawaii Convention Center

Zoom: binghamton.zoom.us/j/6606338452

1. Approval of minutes for the EGSG business meeting in 2023, sent via email to members.
2. Chair's report on Specialty Group Chairs Meeting and AAG Meeting 2024--- Wan Yu
 - 4783 registrants (expected to go over 5000)
 - 80% in-person, 20% virtual
 - 1086 Total Sessions; EGSG 9 sessions.
 - The Council is considering changing the AAG's fiscal year to a calendar year.
 - Council approved adding Special Issues to the GeoHumanities journal, starting in 2027.
 - AAG will soon roll out a new form allowing members to indicate their interest in volunteering with the AAG on committees, task forces, or to stand for election.
 - Per EGSG, as of 4/18/2024, we have 119 members.
3. Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Wan Yu
 - AAG adopts the Sharepoint system, rolling out financial reports quarterly. The first quarter report will be sent out by the end of April. As of Dec 2023, the balance on our account is \$2,047.
4. Call for Contribution to the EGSG Newsletter – Wan Yu and Kate Golebiowska
 - Wan Yu---- A call for contributions for the newsletter has been sent out via the Knowledge Community listserv. Please share your recent recognitions, publications, grants, and important career updates with us.
<https://community.aag.org/discussion/seeking-your-updates-for-the-ethnic-geography-specialty-group-newsletter>
5. Report on EGSG Awards
 - No submissions for the Student Paper Competition and Best Dissertation Proposal Award--- Jay Newberry (presented by Wan Yu)
 - EGSG's Distinguished Awards--- one submission for the Distinguished Scholar Award was received but no recipient was selected. --- Madhuri Sharma
6. EGSG's Website has been renewed on the Wordpress server and is up and running. The website is: <https://ethnicgeography.com/>.
Wan: We need to pay for the annual subscription fee to keep it alive.
7. Vacancies on EGSG Committees and Election/Voting after AAG

- Wan: We have a lot of vacancies on our committees. After the AAG meeting, a call for nomination will be sent out to our group seeking nominations for committee members. Please self-nominate or nominate someone that you believe would be a good fit for those service positions.
 - As AAG adopts the Sharepoint system, all specialty group matters will be conducted on that system, including the elections. The ballot will be sent out on the Sharepoint system via Knowledge Community listserv. The AAG will send out the details on how to conduct elections on that system to the SG chairs.
8. Conference announcement made on behalf of Emily Skop.
- [Call for Participants](#) for the upcoming [Convening of Care](#) conference, supported by the National Science Foundation under Award No. [2324401](#) and Award No. [2324402](#) scheduled to take place in Washington, DC, September 19-20, 2024.
9. Student Travel Awards--- Wan Yu
- The late Dr. Lawrence Estaville donated for the student travel awards for one year yet we still need additional donations to continue the awards in the future.
 - Wan proposed to reach out to the group to see if there are other senior members who would like to donate a certain amount for one/multiple years to continue this award in the future. Wan agreed to donate \$300 to this award for the AAG 2026 meeting.
 - Wei Li shared the AAG contact persons (Jill Treby and Julie Ische) with Wan regarding if AAG allows members to make personal donations for a specific group's awards when members renew their memberships. Wan reached out and was informed that it was not feasible at this point.
 - Paul double checked with Wan regarding the current donation policy--- members can only write a personal check to the AAG to make donations to Ethnic Geography Specialty Group. All donations that are made online when members renew their memberships will go to the AAG Student Awards in general, not to specific specialty groups' student awards.
10. Items from the floor
- Wan: The new Sharepoint system gives SGs little room to check recent years' annual reports (some years' EGSG reports were not available), and up-to-date finances (AAG rolls out SG finances on quarterly basis). The system becomes very closely-knitted and difficult to access by multiple members because it requires a 2-factor-authentication on user's cellphone each time he/she logs in. It also creates technical difficulties when specialty groups transition leadership.
 - Wan and Jose pointed out that the new Sharepoint system couldn't let the SG chairs obtain more information about their members, such as their regions and occupations (student/faculty/staff). It creates additional difficulties for the chairs to proactively reach out and engage members.
11. Adjourn meeting at 5:30PM Hawaii Time.