

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting

Date: March 27, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Eastern Time

Room: 250C, Level 2, Huntington Place, Detroit, MI

Microsoft Teams Meeting [Link](#)

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome by EGSG Chair (Paul McDaniel)
 - a. Welcome everyone to the annual EGSG business meeting. Thank you for your attendance and continued support of our specialty group.
 - b. Briefly acknowledge the AAG meeting and the importance of the EGSG within the broader geographic community.
 - c. Acknowledge the work of various folks who have helped the group this year.
2. Introduction of new members to the EGSG business meeting
 - a. We'd like to take a moment to welcome any new members attending their first EGSG business meeting. Please introduce yourselves briefly.
 - b. Highlight the benefits of EGSG membership and encourage participation.
3. Approval of minutes from the 2024 EGSG Business Meeting in Honolulu
 - a. The minutes from last year's business meeting have been distributed/are available via the EGSG listserv. Are there any corrections or additions?
 - b. Motion to approve the minutes.
4. Report on EGSG's Distinguished Awards – Paul McDaniel and Edris Montalvo
 - a. 2025 Distinguished Career Award: Dr. Joseph S. Wood, University of Baltimore
 - i. Dr. Wood is professor emeritus in the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Baltimore. He holds degrees in geography from Middlebury College (1968), the University of Vermont (1974) and The Pennsylvania State University (1978). He has taught geography at the University of Nebraska at Omaha; George Mason University, where he was chair of the Department of Geography and Earth Systems Science, taught in New Century College, and served as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; and the University of Southern Maine, where he was provost and interim president. He came to University of Baltimore as provost in 2009. Joe Wood served as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at The University of Baltimore from 2009 to 2016. The EGSG remains impressed by Dr. Wood's scholarship on race/ethnicity and its spatial outcomes in cities; dedication to elevating the study of race/ethnicity including while serving as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at The University of Baltimore from 2009 to 2016; teaching courses on community history and race and place in the School of Public and International Affairs and the Division of Legal, Ethical and Historical Studies; creating a new course "Divided Baltimore" at the University of Baltimore; continuing to speak and write about the

historical geography of racial segregation and structural racism in Baltimore; and, in 2021, organizing the biennial Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference in Baltimore. As Dr. Wood also recently reminded me when I chatted with him at the REP Conference booth here in the exhibit hall, even back in the 1990s, when he was at George Mason University, he was writing about Vietnamese refugees in Northern Virginia. Dr. Wood has served a number of national professional associations, including as councilor and treasurer of the Association of American Geographers, board member of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, and councilor of the American Geographical Society. Dr. Wood's exemplary scholarship, service, leadership, and dedication truly exemplifies the values and goals of our specialty group. As such, the EGSG is pleased to honor Dr. Joseph S. Wood with the 2025 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Distinguished Career Award.

- b. 2025 Distinguished Scholar Award: Dr. Marie Price, George Washington University
 - i. Dr. Price received degrees from University of California Berkeley and Syracuse, and is Professor of Geography and International Affairs at George Washington University and is the current President of the American Geographical Society. The EGSG remains deeply impressed by Dr. Price's outstanding scholarship. The Awards Committee noted that "Dr. Price is an extraordinary scholar whose contributions to the field of immigration studies have greatly influenced academic discourse. She is also a scholar-activist who has been involved since its inception with The Dream Project, which empowers students whose immigration status creates barriers to higher education by working with them to succeed in college through scholarships, mentoring, family engagement, and advocacy...In addition to her numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, her publications include a co-edited book *Migrants to the Metropolis: The Rise of Immigrant Gateway Cities* (2008, Syracuse University Press), *Migrants' Inclusion in Cities: Innovative Urban Policies and Practices* (2013, United Nations), a co-edited book that was a collaborative project with staff from UNESCO and UN-Habitat; and another co-edited volume, *(Un)settled sojourners in cities: Challenges of "temporariness" among migrants and asylum seekers* (2023, Routledge Publishers)." A Latin American and migration specialist, her studies have explored human migration's impact on development and social change, especially at the urban scale. In terms of policy, she has engaged with strategies that promote migrant inclusion as well as the use of geographic sciences and technologies to address inequality and promote development. She was a co-author on a report issued by the Organization of American States in 2023 on the role of local authorities in the reception and integration of immigrants and refugees in cities across the Americas. Dr. Price's exemplary scholarship and dedication truly exemplify the values and goals of our specialty group. As such, the EGSG is pleased to honor

Dr. Marie Price with the 2025 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Distinguished Scholar Award.

- c. 2025 Distinguished Scholar Award: Dr. David H. Kaplan, Kent State University
 - i. Dr. Kaplan received degrees from the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is Professor of Geography at Kent State University and is a former President of the American Association of Geographers. The EGSG remains deeply impressed by Dr. Kaplan's outstanding scholarship. The Awards Committee noted that "Dr. Kaplan is an outstanding scholar whose extensive research has significantly advanced the field of ethnic geography, particularly in ethnic economies, urban and regional ethnicity, and residential segregation. In his earlier years, Dr. Kaplan made pioneering contributions to the study of ethnic economies, exploring the spatial structure of immigrant businesses and their role in shaping urban landscapes. His influential work on the formation and sustainability of ethnic economies has provided critical insights into the economic integration of immigrant communities and the broader implications for urban development. Beyond ethnic economies, his research has also shaped contemporary debates on ethnic place-making, migration, and nationalism, with a strong regional focus on North America and Europe. As Editor-in-Chief of *The Geographical Review* and an anchor editor of *National Identities*, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the scholarly discourse in ethnic geography. His scholarship is both theoretically rigorous and policy-relevant, addressing pressing issues such as urban sustainability, segregation, and social integration. Dr. Kaplan's sustained and impactful contributions to ethnic geography make him a highly deserving candidate for the EGSG Distinguished Scholar Award." His many book publications include *Navigating Ethnicity: Segregation, Placemaking and Difference* (2018), *Urban Geography* (4th edition in 2024), *Landscapes of the Ethnic Economy* (2006), and *Geographies of Nationalism* (2022). Dr. Kaplan's exemplary scholarship and dedication truly exemplify the values and goals of our specialty group. As such, the EGSG is pleased to honor Dr. David H. Kaplan with the 2025 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Distinguished Scholar Award.
- d. 2025 Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Elizabeth Chacko, George Washington University
 - i. Dr. Chacko is Professor of Geography and International Affairs at George Washington University and previously served as Associate Provost for Special Programs and the Mt. Vernon Campus Academic Experience. Professor Chacko received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in geography from the University of Calcutta in India. She also obtained a graduate degree in Public Health and a Ph.D. in geography from UCLA. Dr. Chacko has taught geography at various institutions including Loreto College in Calcutta, UCLA in Los Angeles, and the George Washington University. She is primarily engaged in research on human migration and its ramifications — the transnational connections between immigrants and their sending countries/societies, the creation and maintenance of ethnic

spaces by immigrant groups in the receiving country, identity formation and retention among first and second generation immigrants, factors that aid or deter immigrant inclusion in cities and the relationships between migration and development. The EGSG remains deeply impressed by Dr. Chacko's outstanding contributions to the EGSG through her dedicated service and leadership, including serving in multiple key roles as a Board Member, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice Chair, and Chair, and on various EGSG Committees. Dr. Chacko's commitment to scholarship, mentorship, and service in Ethnic Geography has significantly fostered the growth and community-building of EGSG. Additionally, Dr. Chacko's scholarship on immigration has made a tremendous contribution to the field of Ethnic Geography. At the same time, Dr. Chacko has mentored many graduate students and junior scholars, helping to cultivate the next generation of academics in our professional community. Notably, in 2023, Dr. Chacko organized and co-hosted the biennial Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference in Washington, DC, the flagship conference of our field. Dr. Chacko's exemplary service, leadership, and dedication truly exemplifies the values and goals of our specialty group. As such, the EGSG is pleased to honor Dr. Elizabeth Chacko with the 2025 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Distinguished Service Award.

- e. 2025 Early Career Award for Scholarship, Teaching, and Service: Dr. Emily Frazier, Missouri State University
 - i. Dr. Frazier received degrees from Arkansas Tech University and the University of Tennessee Knoxville, and is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Missouri State University. The EGSG Awards Committee was impressed by Dr. Frazier's contributions to ethnic geography scholarship, teaching, and service at this stage in her career. As an early-career scholar, Dr. Frazier has worked to advance the field of ethnic geography through her research trajectory and scholarship, community-building and service, and teaching and student mentorship. Her research focuses on immigration and refugee resettlement in non-traditional destinations across the United States, offering insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by new immigration trends in non-traditional places across the US South and Midwest. Her work has been published in a variety of geography journals and edited volumes on the geographies of non-traditional immigrant destinations, as well as in interdisciplinary outlets. Recently, she convened and co-edited a special issue on the challenges of conducting research with immigrant organizations in the *Geographical Review*, demonstrating commitment to advancing empirical engagement and fostering continued methodological advancement in ethnic geographic scholarship. Her teaching includes courses covering international migration and forced displacement and urban landscapes, all designed to challenge students to critically analyze the role of race, ethnicity, and culture in understanding places, issues, and politics. She currently serves on several AAG Specialty Group Boards and has consistently worked to organize sessions and panels related to immigration

at successive AAG meetings. She took a leadership role in curating a day of panels and discussions at the previous Race, Ethnicity, and Place conference in D.C. on trending issues in the geographies of migration and resettlement. Dr. Frazier's exemplary service, leadership, and dedication within geography truly exemplifies the values and goals of our specialty group and we look forward to her continued participation in EGSG. As such, the EGSG is pleased to honor Dr. Emily Frazier with the 2025 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Distinguished Early Career Award for Scholarship, Teaching, and Service.

5. Report on EGSG's Outstanding Dissertation Proposal Award and Outstanding Student Paper Award – Paul McDaniel
 - a. No nominations received this year.
 - b. Calls for all the EGSG Distinguished Awards and Student Awards were sent out on November 5 and December 13, 2024, and again on February 11, 2025.
6. Chair's report on Specialty Group Chairs Meeting and AAG Meeting 2025
 - a. EGSG sponsored sessions = 10
 - i. Geographies of Borders, Bordering and Borderscapes I, II, and III
 - ii. Contemporary Issues in Ethnic Geography 1 and 2
 - iii. Housing, Assimilation and Economic Mobilities of Immigrants and Minorities I and II
 - iv. Black Geographies
 - v. Puerto Rico: Social & Environmental Challenges
 - vi. EGSG Business Meeting
 - vii. Paul McDaniel sent out a call for EGSG Session Sponsorship on November 5, 2024.
7. Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Vacant (report by Paul McDaniel)
 - a. Fund Balance as of January 31, 2025 = \$2,422
 - b. Membership as of March 17, 2025 = 86
8. Call for Contribution to the EGSG Newsletter –Kate Golebiowska
 - a. Encourage members to submit news and updates to the EGSG newsletter.
 - b. Provide information on submission guidelines and deadlines.
 - c. Highlight the importance of the newsletter for communication and community building.
 - d. Past newsletters are available on the EGSG website.
9. Report on EGSG's Website: <https://ethnicgeography.com/>
 - a. Encourage members to contribute content or suggestions/updates/revisions.
10. Election/Voting Results and Discussion about Vacancies on EGSG Committees
 - a. Electronic online ballot via AAG sharepoint system was sent out on March 16 and was open for one week through March 23, ahead of 2025 AAG meeting).
 - b. Please see <https://ethnicgeography.com/egsg-board/egsg-committees/> for updated roster of officers, board members, and committee members.
 - c. Multiple calls for nominations were sent out over the past year with very little response
 - i. June 11, 2024: Wan Yu sent out a call for nominations (received no responses)

- ii. November 5, 2024: Paul McDaniel sent out a call for nominations (received very few responses)
 - iii. February 24, 2025: Paul McDaniel sent out a call for nominations (received very few responses)
 - 11. General discussion about re-growing the specialty group
 - a. EGSG membership has declined significantly (currently at 86 members)
 - i. Many long-time members have not renewed
 - ii. As such, fewer students and early career individuals are being encouraged to join EGSG as there are fewer long-time active members inviting younger folks to EGSG.
 - b. Ideas
 - i. Wan Yu: Create a separate email list for official and unofficial EGSG community so that persons who are not re-joining AAG (and as such are not re-joining specialty groups) can still hear from EGSG and remain involved if they so choose. Wan Yu mentioned that the China Geography Specialty Group does this and it is a successful strategy.
 - ii. EGSG Chair send personal email individually to each long-time EGSG former member and invite them to return.
 - iii. Each active member encourage others (faculty and students) to participate and respond to calls for awards. Share calls for student awards more broadly.
 - c. Bylaws
 - i. Should they be revised to reduce the number of committees and committee positions to fill? Do we need multiple awards committees? Pros and cons to revising bylaws?
- 12. Plans for AAG Meeting in 2026 in San Francisco; 2027 in New York City
- 13. Items from the floor
- 14. Adjourn meeting
 - a. Thank you all!