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(2026) **Public Art Narrates the Atlanta BeltLine’s Human-Environment Story**. *Focus on Geography* (69)
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Greetings from the Chair

Dear Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Members,

Greetings from Darwin, Australia - home to one of the most diverse small cities in the Southern Hemisphere, and a fitting place from which to celebrate the work of a specialty group devoted to understanding ethnic geographies in all their complexity. As I begin my term as EGSG Chair, I am honored and energized by the opportunity to serve this remarkable community of scholars, teachers, and practitioners.

I have had the privilege of being closely involved with the EGSG in recent years - as Newsletter Editor and then as Vice Chair - and I am grateful to outgoing Chair Professor Paul McDaniel for his tremendous leadership, enthusiasm, and the warmth he brought to every aspect of our group's work.

At the AAG 2026 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, we had the pleasure of celebrating this year's outstanding awardees at our Business Meeting:

- **Dr. Ira M. Sheskin**, Distinguished Scholar Award
- **Dr. Emily Skop**, Distinguished Service Award
- **Dr. Weronika A. Kusek**, Distinguished Early Career Award for Scholarship, Teaching, and Service

We did not receive nominations this year for the Outstanding Dissertation Proposal or Student Paper Awards, so please encourage your students to submit next year. We want to spotlight their work and celebrate their successes.

I also want to thank our Board of Directors and Committee members for their ongoing dedication. The EGSG functions because of your generous contributions of time and expertise. Our new Committee lineup, elected this spring, appears later in this newsletter.

Looking ahead, I hope to grow our membership and ensure the EGSG remains a vibrant home for scholars who care deeply about the diverse geographies of ethnicity, belonging, and place. As discussed at the Business Meeting in San Francisco, membership has been declining since the pandemic - a trend shared across most AAG specialty groups. Part of the challenge is that group memberships are separate from your AAG membership and may expire at different times of year, making renewals easy to miss. Please check your EGSG membership status via 'My AAG Dashboard' / 'Membership & Communities' and renew if due. If you know a colleague or graduate student who would benefit from being part of this community, invite them in. Your membership directly supports our Student Awards, events like REP, and our collective ability to champion ethnic geography nationally and globally.

I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead – and whether you are based in the Northern Hemisphere, or, like me, writing to you from the Australian winter, I wish you much productive scholarship to come.



Kate Golebiowska
Charles Darwin University

EGSG Awards

- ♦ [Dr. Ira M. Sheskin](#) (University of Miami), Distinguished Scholar Award.
- ♦ [Dr. Emily Skop](#) (University of Colorado, Colorado Spring), Distinguished Scholar Award.
- ♦ [Dr. Weronika Kusek](#) (Northern Michigan University), Distinguished Early Career Award for Scholarship, Teaching, and Service

EGSG Member Recent News

Michael Hartwig has successfully defended his dissertation (December 2025). **“It’s just whitefellas’ business: Explaining Aboriginal electoral participation in the Northern Territory”**. This PhD thesis ranked in the top 5% of theses ever examined by examiner 1. Principal supervisor Golebiowska, Kate., Associate supervisors: Professor Rolf Gerritsen, Associate Professor Steven Farram. Michael is now enjoying retirement in country Victoria, Australia.

Dr. Paul N. McDaniel (Kennesaw State University) earned promotion to full Professor of Geography, effective in August 2025 at the start of the new academic year. In addition, in Fall 2024 was elected Vice President of the Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG) for a two-year term. He was also the recipient of the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Online Teaching Award in 2024 at Kennesaw State University.

Drs. Sujayita Bhattacharjee and Madhuri Sharma’s work was featured in the Mumbai Mirror. The article [“**Malad, Kurla and Chembur lagging in healthcare infra**”](#) discusses their recent article published in the Romanian Journal of Geography.

Dr. Madhuri Sharma (University of Tennessee) was appointed to serve as the editor-in-chief of GeoJournal, starting in January 2026. Due to Health reasons, Dr. Sharma served until March 31, 2026.

In addition, Dr. Sharma organized at the AAG, San Francisco two sessions: Housing Cost Burden I and II.

Noteworthy, our EGSG graduate students have been making progress. Ms. Swachhtoya Das approved her comprehensive exams and defended her research proposal. She is now a PhD candidate at University of Tennessee.

Similarly, Ms. Suyanka Das has successfully defended her dissertation “ Integrating Women’s Agency into Maternal Healthcare Utilization: A Scalar and Mathematical Modeling Approach” on July 16, 2026. Her committee members include Drs. Laurie Meschke (Public Health), Courtney Cronley (Social Work), Jack Swab, Nicholas Nagle, and Madhuri Sharma (Chair of her doctoral committee) all from Geography and Sustainability. Our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Suyanka Das who is now on the job market and has been applying for sustainable post-doctoral research and teaching positions!

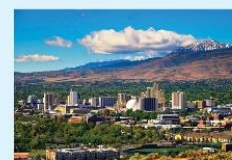
Dr. Díaz-Garayúa is co-host of ***Música, Cultura y Geografía***, a bilingual (English & Spanish) weekly radio show that plays music (mainly) from Latin America and brings information about the genres and artists. This show started live on Spring 2026 and transmitted pre-recorded during the summer every Wednesday at 2:00 PM (Pacific) through Stanislaus State's non-commercial educational radio station **KCSS 91.9 FM, Turlock** (California). This show will return live every Wednesday at 2:00 PM (Pacific Time) during Fall 2026. You can listen live from www.kcss.net.

EGSG Member Recent Publications

- ♦ Bhattacharjee, S., & Sharma, M. and Tiwari, A. (2025) **Change and Continuity of Coastal Mangroves in Greater Mumbai, India: Towards the Sustainable Governance of Blue-Green Infrastructure**. *LAND* 14(9): 1732. [<https://doi.org/10.3390/land14091732>]
- ♦ McDaniel, Paul N. and Darlene Xiomara Rodriguez, Eds. (2024) **Integration and Receptivity in Immigrant Gateway Metro Regions in the United States**. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- ♦ McDaniel, Paul N. and Darlene Xiomara Rodriguez (2024) *Introduction: Twenty-First Century Immigration Geography in the United States* in Paul N. McDaniel and Darlene Xiomara Rodriguez (Eds.), **Integration and Receptivity in Immigrant Gateway Metro Regions in the United States**. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- ♦ McDaniel, Paul N. and Heather A. Smith

(2024) *Charlotte, North Carolina: Multiple Scales of Receptivity in the Queen City* in Paul

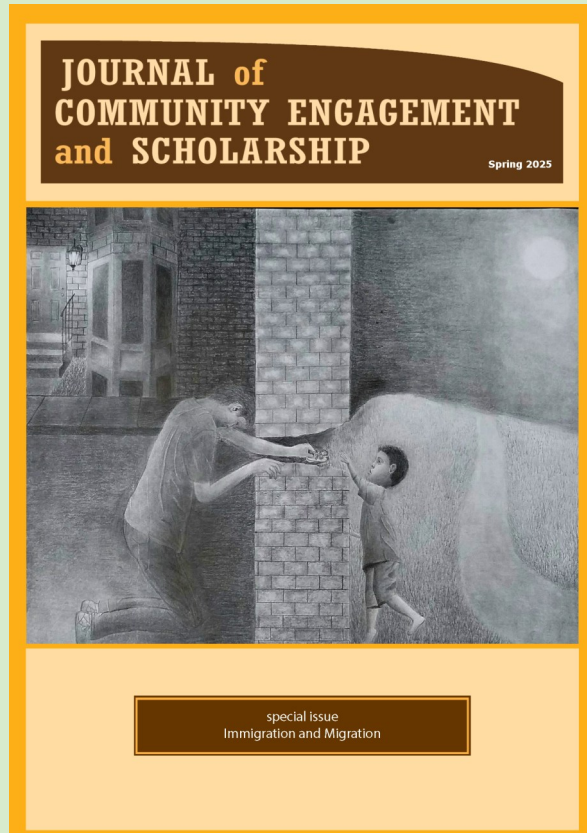
INTEGRATION AND RECEPTIVITY IN IMMIGRANT GATEWAY METRO REGIONS IN THE UNITED STATES



Edited by
PAUL N. MCDANIEL AND
DARLENE XIOMARA
RODRIGUEZ

- N. McDaniel and Darlene Xiomara Rodriguez (Eds.), **Integration and Receptivity in Immigrant Gateway Metro Regions in the United States**. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- ♦ McDaniel, Paul N. (2024) *Birmingham, Alabama: Immigrant Integration, Place Branding, and Geographies of Care in the Ridge and Valley* in Paul N. McDaniel and Darlene Xiomara

Rodriguez (Eds.), **Integration and Receptivity in Immigrant Gateway Metro Regions in the United States**. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.



- ♦ Bhattacharjee, S., & Sharma, M. (2025) [Impact of Climate Change on Urban Poor: Evidence from Two Cities in India](#). *Indian Journal of Spatial Science* [Summer Issue] 16(2): 1-10.
- ♦ Bhattacharjee, S., Sattar, S. and Sharma, M. (2025) **Survival to Dignity? The Precarious Livelihood of Street Food Vendors in South Mumbai and their Path toward Decent Work**. *Social Sciences* 14(12): 692. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci14120692>
- ♦ Bhattacharjee, S., & Sharma, M. and Tiwari, A. (2025) **Change and Continuity of Coastal Mangroves in Greater Mumbai, India: Towards the Sustainable Governance of Blue-Green Infrastructure**. *LAND* 14(9): 1732. [\[https://doi.org/10.3390/land14091732\]](https://doi.org/10.3390/land14091732)
- ♦ Rodriguez, Darlene Xiomara, and Paul N. McDaniel, (2025) **Special Issue on Immigration and Immigrant Community Engagement: Democracy Realized through Immigrant Integration**. [Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship](#), 17, 3.
- ♦ Rodriguez, Darlene Xiomara, and Paul N. McDaniel (2025) **Special Issue Editors' Introduction Commentary: Democracy Personified through Immigrant Integration and Community Engagement**. [Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship](#), 17, 3.
- ♦ Rodriguez, Darlene Xiomara, Paul N. McDaniel, Lina Tuschling, and Lara Smith-Sitton (2025) **Inclusive Storytelling: Immigrant Experiences and Community Reaction in Georgia**. [Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship](#), 17, 3.
- ♦ Sharma, M (2025) **Race/Ethnicity and Homeownership in an Emerging Immigrant Gateway of the US Southeast: A Neighborhood Scale Analysis**, 43-59; Reprinted from: *Social Sciences* 2024, 13(11):624 (Eds) Federico Benassi, Ricardo Iglesias-Pascual, Salvatore Strozza, Special Issue: Immigration, Ethnic Residential Segregation or (vs) Socioeconomic Integration in Urban Areas. (<https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci13110624>)

- ♦ Sharma, M. (2025) **Transferability, transnationality and the Americanization of the far-right ideology: A response to Santamarina and Ince.** *Dialogues in Urban Research* 4(1). [<https://doi.org/10.1177/27541258251383474>]
- ♦ Bhattacharjee, S., and Sharma, M. (2026) **Public Healthcare Facilities in Greater Mumbai: A Ward-scale Analysis of Healthcare Disparity and Population.** *Romanian Journal of Geography* 70(1):3-19. DOI:[10.59277/RRG.2026.1.01](https://doi.org/10.59277/RRG.2026.1.01)
- ♦ Bhattacharjee, S., & Sharma, M. (2026) *Urban Growth, Climate Change, and Extreme Floods: Envisioning Mumbai's Predicament in the Context of Sustainability*, in (Eds) Chatterjee, U. & Almulhim, A.I., **Resilient Urban Waterscapes: Integrated Strategies for Sustainable Water Management** (pgs. 31-48) Sustainable Development Goals Book Series, Springer International Publishing, Springer Nature Switzerland AG (Publisher), DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-20649-7>.
- ♦ Das, S., & Sharma, M. (2026) *The Impact of Climate Mobility on Public Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review*, In P. Ghosh (Ed.), **Climate on the Move: Migration, Environment, Health, Economy, and Justice in a Changing World** (Springer Nature, Scopus-indexed Climate Book Series).
- ♦ Logan, Ryan I. and Díaz-Garayúa, José R. (in press) *On Protecting the Safety and Well-being of Researchers and Participants* in (Eds.) Jessica Mulligan, Waleska Sanabria-León, Austin W. Duncan **Overcoming Logistical and Epistemological Challenges in Mixed Methods Research: A Practical Guide.** Vernon Press; Wilmington, DE.
- ♦ McDaniel, Paul N. and Kang, Ranbir S. (2026) **Public Art Narrates the Atlanta BeltLine's Human-Environment Story.** *Focus on Geography* (69) DOI: [10.21690/foge/2026.69.3f](https://doi.org/10.21690/foge/2026.69.3f)
- ♦ Tan, George; Klocker, Natascha; Radford, David; Golebiowska, Kate; Faulkner, Sarah; & Dun, Olivia (2026) **Rural and regional settlement of former refugees and humanitarian migrants: a place-based perspective.** *Australian Geographer*, 57(2), 237–249. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00049182.2026.2690738>

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www.aag.org/groups/ethnic-geography

And our website:

<https://ethnicgeography.com>

22nd Conference of the Australian Population Association

Creating Demographic Resilience

18-20 November 2026, Australian National University, Kambri/Canberra



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NZGS-IAG Conference 2026

8-10 December, Palmerston North

Wittgenstein Centre Conference 2026

Demography and Human Capital

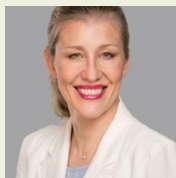
01 - 02 December 2026, Vienna, Austria



Chair

Kate Golebiowska

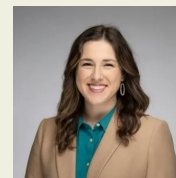
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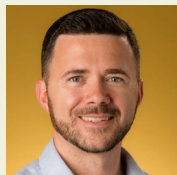
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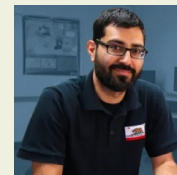
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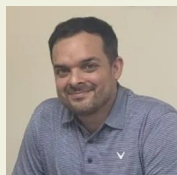
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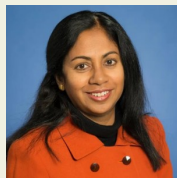
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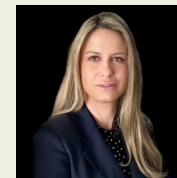
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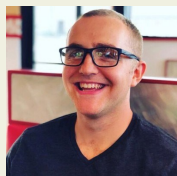
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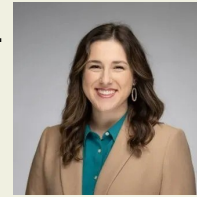
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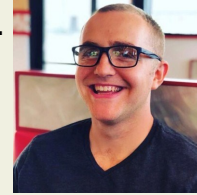
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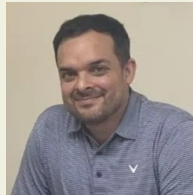
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