

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

Agenda

**Annual General Meeting, Thursday 2nd September, RGS-IBG London
1.10pm, Skempton Building Lecture Theatre Room 201**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes of the 2009 AGM (attached)
3. The current EGRG committee: imminent retirements; new appointments
4. Last year's activities:
 - a. EGRG allocated sessions at the 2010 RGS-IBG Conference
 - b. EGRG sponsored guests at the 2010 RGS-IBG Conference
 - c. Report on launch of the new EGRG textbook '*Reading the Economy: the UK in the 21st Century*'.
 - d. Report on the 2010 EGRG Annual Postgraduate Symposium (attached)
 - e. Postgraduate working paper prize.
 - f. Postgraduate Masters thesis prize and PhD prize
5. Forthcoming events:

Postponed 2010 Annual Symposium: University of Nottingham, 'Geographies of Finance After the Crisis', Wednesday 17th November 2010.

2011 Annual Symposium: suggestions for potential topic and location?

2011 RGS-IBG Annual Conference
6. Treasurer's report
7. 2012 RGS-IBG Annual International Conference: Due to the 2012 London Olympics it will not be possible to hold the conference in London in August or September. RGS-IBG would like EGRG input on the following options:
 - a) moving the conference to a different time of year (suggest dates please)
 - b) moving the conference to another city (suggest cities please)
 - c) a combination of both (suggest the combination of dates and cities please).

When discussing this, please take into account the timeline and other key dates in 2011 and 2012 (attached).
8. Nomination of EGRG sponsored candidates for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (RGS-IBG guidance attached)
9. AOB

Date of next meeting: tbc

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 27th August 2009, RGS-IBG Manchester
1.10pm, Room 2.218

1. Apologies for absence: none received
2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM – available on the EGRG website
3. The current committee:

Chair (outgoing): Neil Coe (University of Manchester)*

Chair (incoming): Andrew Jones (Birkbeck, University of London)*

Secretary: Al James (Queen Mary University of London)

Treasurer: Martin Hess (University of Manchester)

Events Officer: Sarah Hall (University of Nottingham)

Events Officer: Laura James (University of Birmingham)

Book reviews/ James Faulconbridge (University of Lancaster)*

Working papers John Harrison (University of Loughborough)*

- a) Neil Coe stepped down after three years of excellent service and hard work as Chair of the EGRG. He is replaced by Andrew Jones, who will provide necessary management continuity based on his previous experience as Treasurer of the EGRG.
 - b) James Faulconbridge and John Harrison are also due to step down after three years work as Book Review / Working Papers Editors. Whilst both expressed willingness to continue in these roles if required, the outgoing Chair would send an email to see if any other EGRG members might be interested in taking over. A selection process would then be determined.
4. Last year's activities:
 - a. It was noted that having been allocated 7 sessions for the 2009 RGS-IBG Conference, the EGRG compiled and successfully submitted 18 sessions (of which 8 were co-sponsored with other research groups):
 - 2 x Boom, crunch, ouch: exploring possibilities in the spaces of financial disruption
 - 4 x The rise of China and its implications for the developed world
 - 2 x Retail and the city: The urban geographies of retailing
 - 3 x Follow the things: new cultural / economic geographies
 - 3 x Geographies of expertise and experts
 - 2 x Geographical Perspectives on International Labour Migration
 - 1 x Governing Temptation. The emerging geographies of soft paternalism
 - 1 x Acknowledging Ethical EconomiesOverall, it was felt the EGRG continues to demonstrate a very strong presence at the RGS-IBG conference through a wide range of high-profile sessions, and through co-sponsorship of sessions with other research groups.
 - b. It was noted that the EGRG had sponsored two guests at the 2009 RGS-IBG Conference: Grahame Thompson (Open University, 1 day) and Corinne Nativel (University of University of Franche-Comté in Besançon, France, 1 day).
 - c. It was reported that the new EGRG textbook '*Reading the Economy: the UK in the 21st Century*', will be submitted in its final form to the publishers (Sage) at the end of September 2009. The book is edited by Neil Coe (Manchester) and Andrew Jones (Birkbeck) and is intended to replace the previous (1997) EGRG textbook '*Geographies of Economies*' edited by Roger Lee and Jane Wills. All funds generated from the sale of the new textbook will go to the EGRG.

d. It was reported that the very successful, cost-neutral 2009 EGRG Annual Symposium took place from 6-7th May 2009 in the Department of Geography, Queen Mary University of London. There were eight postgraduate presentations on day 1 structured around 3 core themes: (i) Economic Geographies of Environmental Change (Alexia Rogers-Wright, Carl Lewis); (ii) Economic Geographies of Post-Socialist Transition (Adam Novak, Helen Lowther; Piotr Niewiadomski); and (iii) Economic Geographies of Work and Finance (Yajing Li, Rachel Mulhall, Sejeong Ha). Day 2 was co-sponsored with the journal *European Urban and Regional Studies* and was entitled 'Reflections on the Spaces of Economy and Society Twenty Years After the Collapse of State Socialism'. This was comprised of 7 presentations from Judit Timár and Adrian Smith, John Pickles, Simon Reid-Henry, Stefan Bouzarovski, Vlad Mykhnenko and Adam Swain, John Round, and Alison Stenning. The two days were attended by approximately 40 people in total, and thanks to the organisers – Al James, Sarah Hall, Laura James and Adrian Smith – were recorded. It was noted that all materials relating to the 2009 symposia are archived on the EGRG website, and that the papers presented on Day 2 will be published as a special issue of *European Urban and Regional Studies* in early 2010. It was also noted that attendance at the 2009 postgraduate symposium represented a significant improvement on previous years thanks to the hard work of Sarah Hall and Laura James in compiling a database of contact details for all economic geography PhD students (broadly defined) in the UK. It was decided that this database will be maintained and used to encourage even more postgraduates to present their work at the 2010 EGRG Symposium.

e. It was noted that, in response to the RGS-IBG's recent concern for research groups to archive fully their activities, that the EGRG website (<http://www.egrg.org.uk/>) has long provided this function. It was also noted that the EGRG website is in the process of being migrated from the University of Manchester to Birkbeck, to coincide with Andrew Jones taking over as EGRG Chair. Thanks were recorded to Graham Bowden at the University of Manchester for his excellent unpaid work on the EGRG website over the last 10 years. It was agreed that EGRG funds would be used to purchase a suitable gift for Graham Bowden to honour his contribution to the group.

f. The postgraduate book review and working paper series were discussed. It was noted that the first working paper prize had attracted a reasonable filed of submissions, with the prize awarded to: Franz Huber (University of Cambridge): 'Social capital of economic clusters: towards a network-based conception of social resources'. It was also noted that the recently compiled database of UK PhD students in economic geography might provide a useful means for generating a greater number of applications for next year's prize.

g. It was noted that the annual postgraduate prizes were awarded to:

Karen Lai (University of Nottingham, now at University of British Columbia): 'Approaches to 'Markets': The Development of Shanghai as an International Financial Centre' (PhD Prize)

Lucie Edwards (Newcastle University): 'NewcastleGateshead Place Marketing and the Attraction of a Creative Class' (Masters Prize).

It was noted that there were highly competitive fields for both awards.

5. Forthcoming events:

It was agreed that the 2010 Annual Symposium would be hosted by the University of Nottingham, and that the topic would be 'The UK Economy in Crisis'.

The next RGS-IBG Annual Conference will take place from 1-3 September 2010 in London. A formal session selection process will be implemented in due course.

6. Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2009 (balance £980.38 as of August and before the RGS subvention). Two points were noted in particular: the successful budgeting for the annual symposium, and the need to attract sponsorship for the annual thesis prizes in 2010. Overall it was agreed that the finances were reasonably healthy and could support the new working paper prize (see

above) but that we should continue to seek sponsorship for the prizes in 2010 and should also continue to charge a £25 fee for waged attendees at the annual symposium.

7. AOB

Thanks was recorded to Neil Coe for all his hard work as Chair of the EGRG for the last three years. There was a discussion as to whether the EGRG could provide any additional services beyond those already provided to members. It was agreed that the committee was already doing a fine job, but would continue to benchmark its activities against those of other research groups.

Date of next meeting: tbc

AJ, September 2009

18 May 2010 – EGRG Postgraduate Symposium

The EGRG Postgraduate Symposium was held on May 18th at the University of Nottingham. The day was opened by Sarah Hall, who stressed how the event was not only an opportunity to exchange fresh research ideas in a convivial setting, but also to build up professional relationship and plant the seeds for future collaborations.

The day was organised in two sessions. In the morning we discussed economic geography research into the changing nature of work and consumption. Contributions covered innovative and diverse themes such as the geography of sex shopping and temporary staffing and the links between innovation and inequality. In the afternoon, presentations focused on regional economies and the geography of finance. Contributions challenged the role of the current monetary systems, explored the geographical impact of public expenditures and the consequences of migration of high-skilled individuals.

In between the two sessions, doctoral students had the chance to discuss with more senior scholars the challenges and expectations of the profession, and shared first hand experience of their research process. The conversation continued in local pub, where the event ended in a nice atmosphere and with the feeling of having learnt a lot from the day.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: ** IMPORTANT ** Research Excellence Framework 2014:
Geography nominations**
Date: Fri, 6 Aug 2010 12:16:26 +0100
From: Catherine Souch <c.souch@rgs.org>

Dear Chairs and Secretaries of Research Groups

This message concerns the process for nominating REF sub-panel chairs and members for Geography, and invites Heads of Departments and Research Group chairs to nominate potential members. This follows closely procedures used in 2008 and has been agreed upon by representatives of the RGS-IBG and Conference of Heads of Geography Departments.

Attached are two documents:

1. A paper outlining the request, process and key deadlines
2. A form for nominations (except those for sub-panel chair) (to be returned to c.souch@rgs.org <mailto:c.souch@rgs.org>)

The timescale is short. Critical deadlines for submission to the RGS-IBG/Heads of Geography Departments are *31 August (sub-panel chair) *and *21 September (all other nominees)**; so **If you wish to make nominations, please do respond soon. Research Groups, please do consult with your membership; AGMs at the annual conference provide one opportunity for this.

If anything is unclear and/or you wish to discuss any aspect of this, please do not hesitate to contact me, Rita, Mike (Bradshaw), Mike (Heffernan) or Neil (Roberts) (all copied on this email).

We look forward to your responses.

Best wishes

Catherine

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Research Excellence Framework 2014: Geography nominations

This message concerns the process for nominating REF sub-panel chairs and members for Geography, and invites Heads of Departments and Research Group chairs to nominate potential members. The timescale is short (critical deadlines for submission to the Society are 31 August (sub-panel chair) and 21 September (all other nominees); so if you wish to make nominations, please respond soon.

HEFCE: Units of assessment and recruitment of expert panels

HEFCE have now provided more details for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF); specifically the units of assessment (a Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology sub-panel in main panel C) and issued the call for nominations for sub-panel chairs and panel members. We strongly encourage you to read the REF website. **W:** www.ref.ac.uk

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and the Conference of Heads of Geography Departments (CHGD) have been invited to make nominations for membership of the REF assessment panels.

- Sub-panel chair nominations are to be submitted by individuals but require the endorsement of a subject association and/or organisation. *Deadline to HEFCE 17 September 2010.*
- Panel members are to be nominated by subject associations/organisations. *Deadline to HEFCE 8 October 2010.*

Additional nominations are also requested for

- Main panel members (with expertise of leading research internationally, or senior level experience in the commissioning, use or wider benefits of research)
- Sub-panel members and assessors (practising researchers of suitable personal standing, or individuals from the private, public or third sectors with expertise in the use or wider benefits of research).

The process for Geography REF nominations

Following the process for nominations used for previous RAEs, the RGS-IBG and CHGD will work closely together on nominations for panel members and in supporting candidate(s) for the role of sub-panel chair. As in 2008, the process will be as open, inclusive and as fair as possible. Nominations will be actively sought, from departments (through Heads of Departments), the Society's Research Groups (through Chairs and Secretaries), members of the Society's Research Committee, and other senior figures from the discipline, especially with respect to seeking 'user' nominations.

The final nominations to be submitted to HEFCE will be decided upon by a committee with equal representation of the Society's Research Committee and the Conference of Heads of Geography Departments (hereafter referred to as the REF selection committee). Anyone who has been nominated, and who has confirmed they are willing for their name to go forward, will not be invited to participate in the REF selection committee.

HEFCE state that the maximum sub-panel size is 30. We are not the largest sub-panel, therefore we might expect 15 -16 geographers to be appointed to the sub-panel, together with 8 or so archaeologists (assuming proportional representation).

In contrast to previous exercises, HEFCE have not set a limit on the number of times an individual can serve on a REF sub-panel. Thus individuals can be nominated even if they have served on RAE sub-panels twice before. Heads of HEIs may not be nominated as panel members. For your information, those who served on the RAE sub-panel in 2008 are listed below.

Procedure for nominations

By Wednesday 31 August 2010 nominations for sub-panel chair

1. Expressions of interest from those individuals seeking to be supported by the RGS-IBG/CHGD for the position of sub-panel Chair should be submitted. Supporting materials, requested by HEFCE, should be included (specifically the three page letter of application [see http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/pubs/2010/01_10/01_10fp.doc]).

2. From the community, suggestions of those who should be encouraged to stand for sub-panel chair. Please send suggestions as early as possible.

A meeting of the REF selection committee will be held in early September to decide which nominee(s) for sub-panel chair the RGS-IBG/CHGD will support.

By Tuesday 21 September – sub-panel nominations

1. Each Research Group or Head of Department may nominate for the positions listed below, using the accompanying form (also pasted below). Please note that you may nominate up to a maximum of five choices for sub-panel membership (academic). There is a maximum of two nominations for other positions. Deadlines will be strictly adhered to.
 - Additional Main Panel member: International (up to 2 nominations)
 - Additional Main Panel member: Wider use and benefits of research (up to 2 nominations)
 - Sub-Panel Member (academic) (up to 5 nominations)
 - Sub-Panel: Assessor only (from private, public or third sectors with expertise in the use or wider benefits of research) (up to 2 nominations)

Each nomination **must** be accompanied by a full set of completed paperwork, as requested by HEFCE (see attached form), including confirmation from the nominee that they are willing for their name to go forward.

2. Please indicate which RAE panel members from 2008 you would also like to endorse for REF 2014. Note some will elect not to stand again. The RAE panel in 2008 was (** indicates service also on the 2001 sub-panel).

Keith Richards (sub-panel chair)**

Michael Batty

Kevin Edwards

Allan Findlay**

Giles Foody

Lynne Frostick

Kelvyn Jones**

Roger Lee

David Livingstone**

Terry Marsden

Judith Petts

Chris Philo

David Simon

Susan Smith**

David Thomas

Guidance from HEFCE is that for REF a third of sub-panelists should have served before and a third should be new.

3. When making your nomination please remember the breadth of the discipline must be represented; nominations should, as much as possible, cover the range of geography. Individuals sought are expected to be nationally and internationally recognised and respected for their research expertise, to have the wider support of the community, to have sound judgement, and (given the relatively small size of the sub-panel) to have knowledge across substantial areas of the discipline and to be open to quality work across a broad field.

Before the REF selection committee meet to make decisions, the names of all nominees who have agreed that they are willing for their nomination to go forward will be circulated. Heads of Departments and representatives of Research Groups will be with the opportunity to indicate support or reservations about individual nominees.

In making final decisions on nominations, the RGS-IBG/CHGD in addition to taking into account the strength of the individual nominations and the need for representation across the breadth of the discipline, will also consider representation in terms of: regional spread of departments across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; old and new universities; the need for some continuity between successive RAE's; the diversity of those on the sub-panel; and inclusion of those

with understanding of impact and work with public, policy, business and/or community sectors. No more than one panel member for Geography will be nominated from any individual department. If there are additional criteria that you believe should be included, please indicate these in your response.

While we will not refuse nominations from your own department, we strongly encourage you to nominate others.

4. We will be basing nominations on a range of broad sub-disciplines, informed by the submissions to RAE 2008 and with guidance from the RAE 2008 sub-panel chair and associate chair. If you wish to make a strong case for an additional broad area, please do so. You may also want to propose broad areas that should be covered both by specialist advisors (academics and research users/practitioners).

Deadlines

The deadlines listed above are absolute. Please send materials to c.souch@rgs.org. We know that time is very short and this is far from the ideal time to be doing this! All submissions and correspondence will, of course, be treated in strict confidence.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we hope you will participate in this important exercise. We look forward to receiving your replies.

Catherine Souch
Head of Research and Higher Education
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T: 0207 591 3022

Sent on behalf of

Michael Bradshaw (Vice President for Research and Higher Education) and Rita Gardner (Director, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG))

Mike Heffernan and Neil Roberts (Chair and Secretary of Conference of Heads of Geography Departments).

Geography REF nomination form

Please submit a separate form for each nominee (to E: c.souch@rgs.org). For further details, please see:
W: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/>.

Name of Nominator (Department/Research Group)	
Details of Nominee	
Name	
Email	
Position within institution/organisation	
Confirmation that this person agreed to be nominated?	
Panel	
Role for which nominated <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional Main Panel member: International• Additional Main Panel member: Wider use and benefits of research• Sub-Panel Member• Sub-Panel: Assessor only	
Please state the candidate's main fields or areas of research expertise, or (where relevant) the areas in which they have expertise in the use or wider benefits of research. Please include details of any interdisciplinary research expertise.	
Reasons for nominating: <i>Guidance from HEFCE on evidence to support candidate's nomination.</i> <i>For candidates who are researchers, this should include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Their current role and other recent posts of relevance</i>• <i>Recognition of conducting leading research in their field (for example, grants, prizes or awards)</i>• <i>Other indicators of standing in the community (for example, editorial posts or chairmanship of subject bodies; major grants and prizes)</i>• <i>Relevant experience of research management or quality assessment.</i> <i>For candidates who have expertise in the use or wider benefits of research, this should include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Their current role and other recent posts of relevance</i>• <i>Relevant experience of commissioning, using or benefitting from research</i>• <i>Any relevant experience of evaluating the impact, benefits or quality of research</i>• <i>Any indicators of standing in their professional community</i>	
Does this nominee have previous RAE experience	