

RGS-IBG Population Geography Research Group

Annual General Meeting 2016

Royal Geographical Society, London, Wednesday 31st August 2016

Attendees: Adam Dennett (Chair), Darren Smith, Keith Halfacree, Nissa Finney (minute-taker), Nigel Walford, Frances Darlington-Pollock, Gemma Catney, Andreas Culora, John McCarthy, Charlotte Bolton, Nigel de Noronha, Emily Murray, Catherine Waite, Sophie Cranston, Helen Packwood, Maarten van Ham

1. **Apologies:** Ian Shuttleworth, Nik Lomax, Louise Holt, Katherine Botterill, David McCollum

2. **Chair's report (Ian Shuttleworth).** See Appendix A.
In Ian Shuttleworth's absence this was read by Adam Dennett.
Thanks were expressed to the IMigMob 2016 Organising team at Loughborough.

3. **Treasurer's report (Nigel Walford).** See Appendix B.
PopGRG did not apply for a RGS grant in 2015-16 but could consider this for 2016-17.
There is some expenditure since year end (end of July): contribution to iMigMob, income of royalties from Smith et al (2015) *Internal Migration* Routledge.
There has been managed spend of funds over the past year and there is now a need to stabilise spending.

4. **Election of Committee Posts**
 - a) **Chair (2016-2019)**

Nissa Finney was proposed by Adam Dennett and seconded by Gemma Catney and Darren Smith. No other nominations were received. Nissa Finney was duly elected.

 - b) **Secretary (2016-2019)**

John McCarthy was proposed by Fran Darlington-Pollock and seconded by Nissa Finney. No other nominations were received. John McCarthy was duly elected.

 - c) **Communications Officer**

Helen Packwood was proposed by Nissa Finney and seconded by Gemma Catney. No other nominations were received. Helen Packwood was duly elected.

 - d) **Societies Liaison Officer**

(In absentia) Katherine Botterill was proposed by Sophie Cranston and seconded by Gemma Catney. No other nominations were received. Katherine Botterill was duly elected.

The Committee membership as of September 2016 is as follows:

Chair: Nissa Finney (University of St Andrews), 2016-2019

Secretary: John McCarthy (University of Canterbury), 2016-2019

Treasurer: Nigel Walford (Kingston University), 2015-2018

Societies Liaison Officer: Katherine Botterill (Edinburgh Napier University), 2016-2019

Early Careers Officer: Nik Lomax (University of Leeds), 2015-2017

Communications Officer: Helen Packwood (University of St Andrews), 2016-2018

Publications and Awards Officer: David McCollum (University of St Andrews), 2015-2017

Membership Officer: Fran Darlington-Pollock (Queen Mary University of London), 2015-2017

Conferences Officer: Sophie Cranston (Loughborough University), 2015-2017

Postgraduate Officer: Catherine Waite (Loughborough University), 2015-17

AD thanked the committee and expressed appreciation for the work done to promote Population Geography research.

5. Conference Officer Report (Sophie Cranston)

See Appendix C.

RGS-IBG Annual Conference has been very successful and PopGRG was oversubscribed in terms of number of session requests received.

4 1-day passes were sponsored by PopGRG.

SC is happy to promote PopGRG's involvement at other conferences.

6. Communications Report (John McCarthy)

See Appendix D.

There were fewer visits to the PopGRG, most likely a reflection of fewer posts throughout the year. However, visitors to the website spent a longer time interacting with the website and visited more pages. There has been an increased amount of posting to the group's Twitter account, although there is room for increased activity and promotion. The username and password for the account is to be disseminated in order for all members of the group to post relevant information.

7. Membership Report (Frances Darlington-Pollock)

See Appendix E.

The Group has 186 members including 51 PGR Fellows and some life members.

FD-P has begun a newsletter which was positively received.

Recruitment can make use of website and social media.

NRF enquired on level of consistency between membership and JISCmail list.

KHH commented on some problems with Rural Geographies RG membership database

8. Prizes Report (AD on behalf of David McCollum and Ian Shuttleworth)

See Appendix F.

Report was read by AD on behalf of David McCollum and Ian Shuttleworth.

8 dissertations were submitted for the Joanna Stillwell UG prize. 4 dissertations were identified for an award. The meeting discussed how the financial value of the award should be divided.

Action: NRF to liaise with DMc and NW to resolve this.

It was suggested that for future awards one monetary prize be offered, with potential for other pieces of work to receive commendations.

DS commented that there should be a prominent record of prizes on the website.

The deadline for the Bob Woods PG prize has been advertised as 14 September. GC raised the issue of this being early in relation to MSc dissertation submission. A later submission date of November was proposed and supported by the meeting.

Action: DMcC to review prizes schedule and procedure.

9. Postgraduate Report (Catherine Waite)

CW raise the issue of low number of submissions to AC PGR sessions and the need for the group to better engage PGRs. Mid-term conference PGR session were proposed.

DS raise the questions of PopGRG support for Popfest and whether this should be continued.

10. Any Other Business

In relation to communications it was agreed that the website needs updating and Twitter should be better employed to promote the group.

DS reported that Population, Space and Place will no longer be publishing book reviews due to pressure on space. Conversation has been had with IS about the potential of using PopGRG website as a platform for PSP-linked book reviews. Action: NRF and DS to discuss.

AD will be taking on role of secretary to GIS Research Group. Thanks to Adam for his work on PopGRG.

ICPG Seattle, 28-30th June 2017

IGU Population Commission, Quebec City, 2018

2nd iMigMob, St Andrews, 2018

APPENDIX A

Chair's report

Let me start by thanking all the committee members during my term and by wishing my successor good fortune in taking the group forward for the next three years. Over the last year, the group has been involved in or supported a variety of academic events. It has a wide range of sessions at this year's annual conference, co-sponsored the iMigMob conference held at the University of Loughborough in July 2016, and also helped to support Popfest 2016. It also attempted to continue and to develop its relationship with its US counterparts with a joint session on internal migration at the AAG in Chicago at the end of March 2016, and these ties are perhaps something to look towards in the future. There was less success with a day workshop that was jointly planned with the British Society for Population Studies on overpopulation and Malthus and scheduled for April 2016 since this ran foul of other similar events that were planned at roughly the same time – perhaps a good idea but at the wrong time. So, overall a year of some, but moderate, activity with a fairly standard range of events.

Given this, and in a reflective mood, what would I do if I had my time again, and 100% more energy? The discussions at the iMigMob conference provide one possible focus. The big event in the UK of the first half of 2016 was, of course, the Brexit Referendum. In the public debate between Leave and Remain immigration in terms of numbers, targets, and consequences loomed ever larger sometimes with truths, partial truths, and outright fibs mixed together in a pottage of fear. As scholars who focus on migration in all its guises, where were we in informing the public and creating a better informed debate? The answer as far as I can see is 'nowhere', and for that I am as culpable as anyone else. Of course, in times where experts are distrusted, any contribution we made might have been simply swallowed up or ignored – but at least we would have known we had made it and said something, and who knows, it might have had some useful outcomes.

Since immigration has remained important as an issue in the UK after the referendum, with the continued political uncertainties about Brexit and the form it might take, the need for our contribution to debate remains very much alive. Therefore, perhaps a challenge we face as a community is in finding our collective voice and, moving beyond our usual activities, using the Group to help us disseminate our research findings and to get our opinions and views out there to the public and opinion formers. A big challenge – and one I will leave to those who come after me if they choose to take it up.

Ian Shuttleworth

August 2016

APPENDIX B

Population Geography Research Group

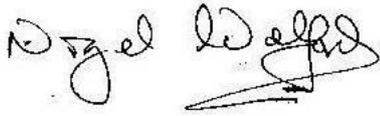
Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers

Statement of Account: 01 August 2015 – 31 July 2016

Opening balance brought forward 01 August 2015		£1,905.95
Income		
RGS-IBG Subvention		£285.00
	Total income	£285.00
Expenditure		
Grants, prizes		£275.00
Reception at BSPS (Univ. of Leeds)		£40.00
PopFest 2016		£300.00
	Total Expenditure	£615.00
Surplus (deficit)		-£330.00
Closing balance carried forward 31 July 2016		£1,575.95

Treasurer's Report

The planned reduction in the Group's balance has continued during 2015/16 with £330.00 excess of expenditure over income resulting in an overall end of year balance of £1,575.95. The RGS-IBG subvention was the only source of income and was £10.00 higher than in the previous year. The account remains at the Lloyds Bank, Park Row, Leeds and no bank charges were incurred. The balance in the account is sufficient to cover anticipated expenditure over the next year and there should be some royalty income arising from the *Internal Migration* book.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Walford'. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with the first name 'Nigel' written in a larger, more prominent font than the last name 'Walford'.

Respectfully submitted by Prof. Nigel Walford

Department of Geography and Geology, Kingston University

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31 July 2016

APPENDIX C

I'll be at the AGM tomorrow, but I thought I would send through my 'report ' as conference officer in advance. I've only been involved in co-ordinating the RGS-IBG sessions as opposed to having involvement in other conferences, so I will just comment on them although I know population geography has had some involvement in conferences like iMigMob.

In terms of the RGS-IBG we had a successful year for session proposals, with a sponsorship of 13 slots over 8 sessions.

Contemporary and Future Debates for Postgraduate Population Geography

Session Convenor: Catherine Waite (Loughborough University).

Co-Sponsored by the Postgraduate Forum.

Geographies of human trafficking and smuggling: navigating the traffic of migration, mobility and justice studies

Session Convenors: Matej Blazek (Loughborough University), James Esson (Loughborough University), Darren Smith (Loughborough University).

Co-Sponsored by the Geographies of Justice Research group; Social and Cultural Research Group.

Interdisciplinary approaches to understanding ethnicity and place

Session Convenor: Nissa Finney (University of St Andrews) on behalf of the ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE).

CoDE is a four year interdisciplinary programme of research concerned with understanding changing ethnic inequalities and identities (www.ethnicity.ac.uk).

Co-Sponsored by the Geographies of Justice Research Group.

Global talent and expatriate knowledge mobility in a multipolar world

Session Convenors: Jen Dickinson (Leicester University), Jonathan Beaverstock (Bristol University), Giles Mohan (Open University), Ben Lampert (Open University).

Later-life (im)mobilities: unpacking the ageing-migration nexus

Session Convenors: Russell King, Dora Sampaio and Katie Walsh (University of Sussex, UK)

Nuclear Geographies: Splitting the Atom

Session Convenors: Becky Alexis-Martin, University of Southampton, UK; Nigel Heap, Chairman of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association, UK

The role of people and place in (re-)producing neighbourhood identities

Session Convenors: Diane Frost and Gemma Catney, University of Liverpool

Theorising the Migration Industries

Session convenors: Sophie Cranston, Loughborough University; Joshua Kurz, National University of Singapore.

In addition to the sessions, we have sponsored four one day guest passes for the following delegates:

Thea De Gruchy- African Centre for Migration and Society, University of Witwatersand, South Africa.

Holly Morris- Explorer and Director of Babushkas of Chernobyl

Sue Lukes- Independent Consultant in Migration Services Provision Sector

Andrew Desmond- Anti Trafficking Consultant

I think the diversity of the different sessions and the requests for population geography sponsorship highlights the healthy level of interest in the sub-discipline.

All the best

Sophie

APPENDIX D

Communications Report – John McCarthy

Website

Between September 1st 2015 and August 30th 2016 there were 16 posts to the *popgeog.org* website. These posts included job and PhD opportunities, calls for conference papers, event announcements, and news of prizes awarded. When appropriate, these posts have additionally been circulated via JISCMail.

Relative to the previous year, between September 1st 2015 and August 30th 2016 there has been:

↑ Increased percentage of first time visits (82% vs. 79%)

↑ Increased average number of pages per session (1.60 vs. 1.54)

↑ Increased average session duration (59 seconds vs. 58 seconds)

↓ Decreased number of sessions (6,044 vs. 7,315). A session represents a period of time a user is actively engaged in the website

↓ Decreased number of users (5,001 vs. 5,820). Users have at least one session within the date range, and include both new and returning users

↓ Decreased number of page views (9,697 vs. 11,273). The number of page views includes repeated views of the same page

Number of page visits- which were the most popular?

The post announcing the iMigMob conference accounted for 537 (5.5%) of page views. The Jobs category page has been popular, with 365 page views for the period.

Where do our visits come from?

Most sessions originated in the UK (30%). The USA has been the second most popular origin, with 655 sessions. India accounted for around 8% of all sessions. Relative to the previous year, there were notable increases in the number of sessions originating in the Netherlands (8%), and Kenya (8%).

Source/medium

Similar to the previous year, most sessions (58%) were the result of Google/organic searches, with 16% the result of direct access (typing the site address into a web browser). Referred visits have been responsible for around 22% of our traffic. Referred visits came through the CASA website, the RGS website and Facebook.

Social media

Members of the committee may request permission to tweet from the PGRG Twitter account: @pgrg_rgsibg, using the TweetDeck facility. Posts to the PGRG website are generally Tweeted.

JISCMail

Since September 2015, 28 subscribers have been added to the JISCMail POPGRG mailing list. There are 430 subscribers in total.

PGRG Membership Officers Report

Fran Darlington-Pollock

I became active in this role in January 2016 after a slightly delayed start. Since January, we have had some small fluctuations in membership. Despite a number of new joiners (mainly as postgraduate fellows), we have also lost some existing members. As of August 2016, we have 186 members. Figure 1 breaks these down by membership type.

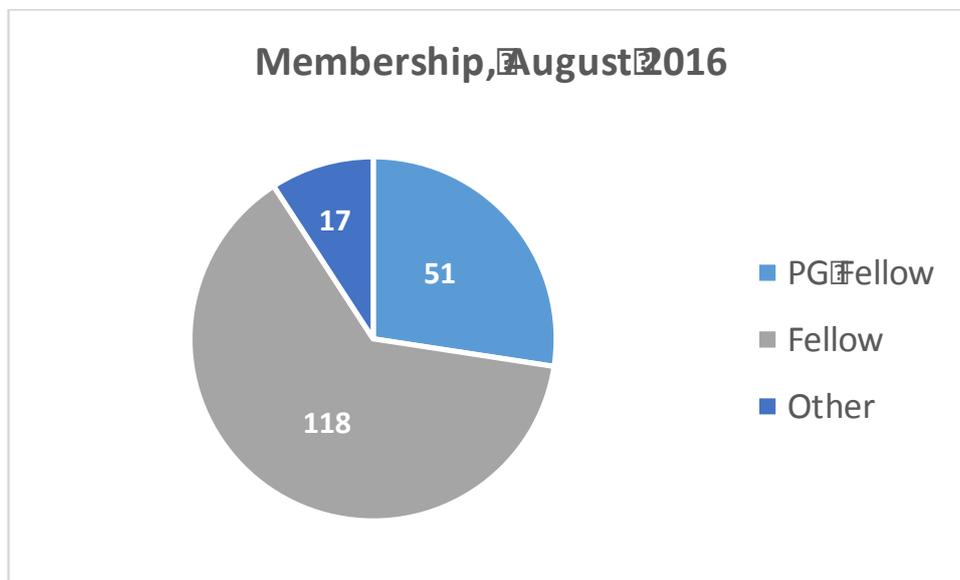


Figure 1 PGRG Membership

In an effort to expand our membership base, I have re-instated the PGRG newsletter. The intent of this newsletter is to engage with existing members, encourage an active PGRG voice, and through this, promote our group activities and gain new members. I also recommend a more active engagement with (potential) members via the Twitter feed. We might also want to engage with PGs/ECRs through some kind of dedicated forum / section of the website to share relevant events, networking opportunities and promote the research of our group.

If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please let me know!

APPENDIX F

Joanna Stillwell Prize

Eight dissertations were submitted for consideration for the prize from the University of Leeds, King's College London, the University of Southampton, the University of Liverpool, Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Gloucester, UCL, and the University of Durham. As in previous years, the diverse topics researched and the diversity of methods used were a testament to the breadth of Population Geography in the UK and the robust quality of teaching in Geography Departments. All had considerable merit and were clearly written by good students who had received good supervision.

First place goes to the UCL dissertation which involved extensive secondary data analysis to assess the changing role of key industries of employment between 1991 and 2001, and the extent to which these associate with changing patterns of wealth. This was a technically strong and highly relevant piece of research, elements of which are potentially publishable. The UCL dissertation therefore is awarded first place in the Joanna Stillwell dissertation prize. In close second was the University of Liverpool dissertation on the spatial variation of fertility postponement in England and Wales because of its strong engagement with the literature and its commitment to empirical investigation using census data. It read well and made a good argument. In third place, the University of Leeds dissertation on health and demography in Cardiff had a strong quantitative base, using a variety of methods, and attempting to draw policy conclusions.

David McCollum and Ian Shuttleworth

August 2016