

GSAG Newsletter

Spring
2018

Graduate Student Affinity Group of the Association of American Geographers - www.gsagaag.org

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Highlights: AAG Meeting, April 10-14

The annual AAG meeting will soon be starting in New Orleans, and GSAG will be sponsoring several events. Highlights include:

TUESDAY: If this is your first AAG meeting, visit the **Welcome to the AAG Panel** for tips on getting the best out of the conference.

8:00 - 9:40 AM in Studio 2, Marriott

WEDNESDAY: Join us for lunch at Oceana Grill. See page 9 for details.

11:30AM - 1:30 AM at Oceana Grill

Elections for new officers will be held at the **GSAG Business Meeting**. See page 4 for details.

7:10 - 8:10 PM in Studio 6, Marriott

THURSDAY: Join us at for bowling and fun. See page 9 for details.

6:00PM - 8:00 PM at Fulton Alley Bowling

FRIDAY: Our annual GSAG plenary, this year a sponsored spotlight plenary, is entitled **The Words We Dare Not Speak: Navigating Mental, Emotional Psychological Sites of Trauma in the Academy**. It will feature Toni Alexander (Southeast Missouri State University), Linda Peake (York University), and Alisa Shockley (Temple University). See page 6 for more details.

8:00 - 9:40 AM in Napoleon D3, Sheraton



2017 - 2018 GSAG Board

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Northeastern University

Vice-Chair
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Florida State University

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Melissa Bernardo
Florida International University

Council Representative
Shadi Maleki
Texas State University

Board Member
Ana Sanchez Rivera
University of Maryland

From the Chair.

Dear GSAG members,

The AAG annual meeting is here and we couldn't be more excited to welcome you all to another year of great events, whether it be a paper panel, workshop, or social event.

The GSAG committee has worked hard over the past year organizing activities for the AAG annual meeting: the Welcome to AAG Panel, a GSAG group social, and our business meeting.

Our plenary spotlight session is "The Words We Dare Not Speak: Navigating Mental, Emotional Psychological Sites of Trauma in the Academy" hosted by Dugan Meyer and Aretina R. Hamilton. We thank them tremendously for orchestrating such a vital panel for discussion.

We know that AAG is a busy time filled with presenting, networking, and more, but we encourage you all to please support these activities if you have the time and energy to do so.

The Graduate Student Affinity Group was created to support the AAG graduate student population and increase their participation and voices at AAG. It is a common conception that AAG is both outstanding and overwhelming, so we work to create spaces for conversation and collaboration, for engaging with peers, and simply for having fun. GSAG is here for you so please be sure to take advantage of all the perks of being a GSAG member.

Our goal this past year was to create a sense of community that a conference usually misses. Please help build the GSAG community by attending our events, especially our business meeting and social event, and meeting your peers. All of us graduate

students experience the same stresses and processes. We can be there for each other to talk, air our grievances, and work to make a better AAG and academy at large. Additionally, at the business meeting this year, we will be drafting our GSAG Statement of Space for how us graduate students would like AAG to operate. This is important as graduate students make up the majority of those in attendance at the annual conference.

GSAG is also hoping to build community beyond the annual conference. We will be expanding our online presence through Facebook and Twitter to help circulate pertinent information and to generate discussions on timely issues. We also want to celebrate the successes of our members by promoting publications and work that graduate students are doing. If you have more ideas for community building, please join us at the GSAG business meeting on Wednesday, April 11th from 6:00pm-7:10pm.

We look forward to all joining together for another great year at AAG and hope to meet you there so we can put a face to e-mail address, a face to the citation.

- If this is your first AAG, please join us for the Welcome to AAG panel Tuesday, April 10th at 8am. If you want to take a break, meet new people, get food and bowl for free, join us for our socials on Wednesday and Thursday (see page 9 for details).

- If you want to air concerns and get informed about academy-induced mental and emotional trauma, please join us for our spotlighted plenary "The Words We Dare Not Speak: Navigating Mental, Emotional Psychological Sites of Trauma in the Academy" on Friday, April 13th at 8:00am.

- If you want to get more involved with this community, vote for or run for elected office, please

join us for the business meeting Wednesday, April 11th from 6:00pm-7:10pm. Joining the GSAG organizing committee is a big impact, low commitment position!

Acknowledgments:

AAG has had a profound impact on my life and I am happy to give back by cultivating a thriving graduate student community. I want to thank those members who gave me the opportunity of serve GSAG first as a co-chair and now chair. The active participation in the business meetings and GSAG meetings of all the committee members has been wonderful and I'm beyond thankful for all your work. To the committee, thank you for all your support, dedication, time, and hard work. GSAG has been able to thrive because of your work in organizing everything for AAG 2018. I would also like to specifically thank a few people.

Ana, our 2016-2017 GSAG chair and my mentor, thank you so much for all the help and support throughout these past two years. Without your enthusiasm, support, and guidance, none of this would have been possible.

Doug, our co-chair, thank you so much for stepping in and dedicating such effort into mapping out the future for GSAG for the next two years. GSAG will

be in great hands with your leadership.

Kris, our treasurer, thank you so much for bringing in such wonderful ideas and for pushing GSAG to be bigger and better than ever.

Shadi, our council rep, thank you so much for being the voice of GSAG in our council meetings and for standing up for all us graduate students. Your work to ensure that graduate student voices are heard is so crucial.

And to Maël, Melva, and Melissa, our community builders, thank you so much for being the eyes and ears of GSAG to communicate our concerns, our research, and so much more.

All the best!
Mia

What is GSAG ?

The Graduate Student Affinity Group (GSAG) is an organization charged with voicing the concerns of geography graduate students and better preparing students for their careers by providing a forum for inter-university communication and professional support. Our group is open to anyone from undergraduate students considering graduate school in geography to full professors who are interested in supporting graduate students.

GSAG Elections.

Elections for GSAG Officers will take place during our business meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 7:10 –8:10 PM. You need to be present to run for office. Nominations will be accepted until then. To nominate yourself or someone else, please email Mia Renault (renauld.m@husky.neu.edu) with the name and contact information of your nominee. If you are nominating yourself, please include a brief bio and a short statement on why you are interested in the position. Officer positions and responsibilities include:

VICE-CHAIR: Serve as a replacement for the chair in case s/he can't continue with her/his duties or in the case of graduation. This position requires a two years minimum commitment, on the first year s/he will serve as vice-chair and on the second year s/he will take over the Chair's positions. As vice-chair s/he will help to monitor the implementation of short-term goals, assist the president to fulfill her/his responsibilities, and organizes relevant AAG sessions/activities as desired.

TREASURER: Gets checks for Grantees, communicate between the AAG and award winners to ensure that they receive their checks, stays aware of all GSAG finances, reports on membership numbers and budget (liaison between AAG and GSAG on all financial matters), collaborate with the organization of relevant AAG sessions/activities as desired.

SECRETARY: Prepare and sends out the newsletter (before the AAG meeting), keeps meeting minutes at GSAG meetings, collaborate with the organization of relevant AAG sessions/activities as desired.

COMMUNITY BUILDERS: manages/updates website including updating news. Collects and adds new officer bios. Grows and maintains social media and keeping the GSAG membership informed of opportunities and events related to graduate students and GSAG. GSAG community builders also organize the social event at the AAG annual meeting and collaborate with the organization of relevant AAG sessions/activities as desired.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: The responsibilities of the Council Representative include attending the bi-annual meetings of the AAG Council as a representative of GSAG and graduate students more broadly. The AAG pays expenses for this travel. The council representative is also responsible for keeping the GSAG membership informed about changes and opportunities at the level of the AAG which affect graduate students.

BOARD MEMBERS: Act as reviewers for paper and research award competitions (as well as all the other members), provide input on GSAG matters when solicited by other officers, and organize/assist with the organization of relevant AAG sessions/activities as desired..

GSAG is an inclusive organization, and all who run for election (regardless of outcome) are invited to serve as board members. We welcome your input and encourage your participation.

GSAG Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 7:10 - 8:10 PM
in Studio 6, Marriott

2018 GSAG Professional Development Award.

With more than 100 applicants, this year's selection process was very tough and reaching a decision was particularly difficult for our officers. Thank you to all applicants, and congratulations to our eight winners:

MARIA BARBERO from Florida International University, for her paper: *Landscapes of Belonging and Exclusion: Youth mobility and State Practice in Argentina*. Maria will present her paper as part of the session *Sorting Youth: Categorization of, and Contestation by, Children and Teenagers* scheduled on Wednesday at 5:20 PM in Mid-City, Sheraton.

ILEANA DIAZ from the University of Waterloo, for her paper: *Citizenship biopolitics: Puerto Rico-United States entanglements, race, and disaster mobilities*. Ileana will present her paper as part of the session *Contemporary politics, spaces, and ethics of refuge II* scheduled on Thursday at 10:00 AM in Studio 7, Marriott.

ASIA DOWTIN from the University of Delaware for her paper: *Identifying spatial variability in hydrologic and solute fluxes within mixed-deciduous urban forest fragments: A Wilmington, Delaware case study*. Asia will present her paper as part of the session *Trees in the City 1: geospatial methods to monitor the urban forest* scheduled on Thursday at 10:00 AM in Bourbon Room, Astor.

PAULO JOSE MURILLO from the Oregon State University for his paper *A global assessment of the impact of armed conflict on forests using Google Earth Engine*. Paulo will present his paper as part of the session *Applying spatial data and analyses in studies of violent conflict*

scheduled on Tuesday at 4:40 PM in Napoleon B3, Sheraton.

EMMA TOME from the University of California, Berkely, for her paper: *Oakland EcoBlock: Who governs a climate-resilient neighborhood?* Emma will present her paper as part of the session *The Urban Material Politics of Decarbonization and Resilience I* scheduled on Saturday at 8:00 AM in Endymion, Sheraton.

ARABY SMYTH from the University of Kentucky, for the organization of and her participation to the panel: *A Feminist Covenant in the University*, scheduled on Wednesday at 8:00 AM in Bacchus, Sheraton.

STEPHA VELEDNITSKY from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, for her paper: *From "Greening the Desert" to Green Technology: Neoliberalism and the New Meanings of Water in Israel/Palestine*. Stepha will present her paper as part of the session *Geopolitical Ecologies III: 'Green' hegemonies* scheduled on Tuesday at 12:40 PM in Bonaparte, Marriott.

GSAG Sponsored Sessions.

TUESDAY

Welcome to AAG

From 8:00 AM to 9:40 AM in Studio 2, Marriott, Second Floor

This panel session will serve as an introduction to the AAG annual meeting, and a venue for newcomers to ask questions as well as meet other conference attendees. Panel participants have diverse experience with the AAG annual meeting, and will provide advice to attendees on how to make the most of the meeting. Following introductions, the session will proceed with Q&A and discussion between the panelists and audience members, and end with an opportunity to network. Topics discussed will include how to decide what sessions to attend, opportunities provided at the annual meeting, advice on making the most of the networking with exhibitors, etc.

WEDNESDAY

A Feminist Coven in the University

From 8:00 AM to 9:40 AM in Bacchus, Sheraton, Eighth Floor

In theory, graduate school fosters intellectual and professional growth. However, it often feels personally and politically stunting: it is a place of competition, scarcity, and patriarchy. We call on panelists to discuss the autonomous feminist spaces that they create on their campuses. In response to hostilities, we contest what doesn't work and we find new ways to support each other that cannot be easily contained or commodified (Ahmed, 2017; Berlant, 2011). Instead of competing, we collaborate by praising boldness, cultivating norms of trust rather than suspicion, elevating friendship above romance, grounding our relationships within political work and feminist praxis (Clementine & Associates from the Infinite Venom Girl Gang, 2012; Walia, 2013). Our willfulness to love and and resist conjures momentary, inhabitable spaces, where we dream of alternative futures and nurture our energies for revolutionary change (Benjamin, 2007; Haraway, 2016). We won't settle for the few comforts our professionalization affords us or for promises of a respect that will never be fully granted. [...]

How Racism Takes Place in the Academy: A Workshop on Structural Racism and Implicit Bias in the Ivory Tower

From 5:02 PM to 7:00 PM in Napoleon D3, Sheraton, Third Floor

How does racism take place in the academy? How do structural and institutional structures support and maintain racist ideologies within higher education? How might Geographers use their research and cartographies of struggle to dismantle these hierarchies? In this panel, students, researchers, and faculty will discuss their personal and professional experiences with race. Also, the panel will explore the role that structural racism plays in recruiting and retaining students of color; how race impacts hiring practices and tenure promotion; and how race shapes the culture of academia in general.

Graduate Student Affinity Group Business Meeting

From 7:10 PM to 8:10 PM in Studio 6, Marriott, Second Floor

See details page 4

FRIDAY

The Words We Dare Not Speak: Navigating Mental, Emotional Psychological Sites of Trauma in the Academy

From 8:00 AM to 9:40 AM in Napoleon D3, Sheraton, Third Floor

In 2003, a Chronicle of Higher Education the pseudonymous Thomas Benton wrote about his experiences with depression and anxiety in graduate school. In this article, he wrote, "Grad school is a confidence-killing daily assault of petty degradations. All of this is compounded by the fear that it is all for nothing; that you are a useful fool." More recently, Science Magazine published an article that "systemic mental health issues" are frequently ignored. For many, there is an arduous and tricky journey through graduate school. As one former PhD lamented, "the stiff-upper-lip attitude that pervades the ivory tower can prompt many people who struggle with mental health problems to

keep their problems hidden, while others simply accept depression as par for the course.” Of course, these battles are not limited to graduate school as evidenced by a talk given by Peter Railton, the Gregory S. Kavka Distinguished University Professor and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan who detailed his battle with depression.

As geographers, we frequently study sites of trauma, exclusion, violence and contestation; however seldom do we acknowledge or write about how the academy reproduces these sites onto our bodies. This session will provide a space where we can speak openly and honestly about these sites and experience.

The Innovation Library: Sharing Web-based Mapping Activities

From 10:00 AM to 11:40 AM in Iris, Sheraton, Eighth Floor

Regardless of instructional format (e.g. hybrid, on-line, competency based), instructors rely on mapping to introduce and reinforce geospatial concepts. In this interactive short paper session, presenters will share how they use dynamic, web-based maps (e.g. on-line ArcGIS, OpenStreetMap, Google Earth) to teach geographic concepts. Presenters will (1) introduce the range of web-based mapping resources currently available; (2) discuss specific ways that they have incorporated web-based maps into activities; and (3) share materials that can be used to design and develop learning activities, assignments, and labs.

Reflecting on the past and future of Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG), 6th Annual Panel

From 5:20 PM to 7:00 PM in Studio 3, Marriott, Second Floor

For almost two decades, Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) groups have been operating on campus and in the workplace at the campus level to promote the participation of women in the discipline of geography and to empower women who are pursuing academic and professional careers in geography. This panel provides the opportunity for national and international SWIG chapters to come together to network, share lessons and experiences, and strategize for the future in the form of a round table discussion. This will be a collaborative learning space to discuss the various activities SWIG chapters engage with in their departments, and share ideas about how SWIG chapters can more powerfully intervene on their campuses and places of work, in the AAG, and in the discipline of geography more broadly. We hope that the

conversations initiated during this panel will strengthen and expand our existing network of SWIG chapters through creating space for greater collaboration. Additionally, we aim to provide strategies for getting SWIG chapters started in different institutional contexts and to encourage the students in the field of geography to establishment their own SWIG chapters within their departments or institutions. As a result of this panel, we hope that the SWIG community can continue to grow and effect change in the discipline of geography.

Tropical Conservation, Development & Agriculture Short Papers

From 5:20 PM to 7:00 PM in Rampart, Sheraton, Fifth Floor

[...] This session is designed to be a step towards remedying the unfocused nature of interactive short papers sessions. Focused on the broad theme of tropical conservation, development and agriculture, this session will feature research projects covering political ecology, human-environment interaction, resource management, food security, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and other related thematic and topical issues at sites in the tropics and sub-tropics. Discussants will lead an open discussion on the themes that emerge during presentations following individual researchers' talks.

SATURDAY

Positionality, gender & fieldwork I and II: An intercampus dialogue on institutional practices and fieldwork experiences

From 8:00 AM to 9:40 AM in Iberville, Marriott, Fourth Floor

This panel brings together female PhD candidates in geography who conduct fieldwork across Asia, South America, Africa, and North America employing a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. This panel continues a discussion started in 2016 on conducting geographic fieldwork as a solo female graduate researcher, with a renewed focus on student preparedness for field research and institutional support. Topics of discussion will include: power dynamics and interpersonal relations in the field, safety and wellbeing, navigating gender dynamics in cross-cultural contexts, and fieldwork preparation and training. While the focus of the panel is on gender, the discussion will explore questions of positionality more broadly, examining how our identities shape our research experiences, and ways in which positionality and power can/should be accounted for in fieldwork and

training. Overall, the purpose of the panel is to support female graduate students to exchange ideas and draw from one another's experience. The conversation is meant to be inclusive of diverse fieldwork experiences, institutional backgrounds, and levels of expertise. The session will also explore how home institutions, graduate programs, and supervisors can support graduate student preparation for fieldwork, creating space for intercampus dialogue and exchange.

Positionality, gender & fieldwork II: An intercampus dialogue on institutional practices and fieldwork experiences

From 10:00 AM to 11:40 AM in Iberville, Marriott, Fourth Floor

Part II of this session is designed to continue the discussion from Part I, exploring specific regional and contextual themes on positionality, gender, and fieldwork in greater depth through break-out groups. Topics of discussion will include: navigating power dynamics and research relationships in the field; motherhood and identity in fieldwork; safety and fieldwork in conflict-affected areas; and institutional support and training. Overall, the purpose of the panel is to support female graduate students to exchange ideas and draw from one another's experience. The conversation is meant to be inclusive of diverse fieldwork experiences, institutional backgrounds, and levels of expertise.

Become a GSAG Member

Mission

To support the graduate students of the AAG by increasing participation of graduate students in the life of the profession and by better preparing graduate students for careers in geography.

Dues

\$3

Website

www.gsagaag.org

President

Mia Renauld
renauld.m@husky.neu.edu

Apply Online

You must be logged in with your AAG username and password to use the online membership application. Once you have logged in: Begin the AAG online application for new or renewing members.

GSAG Social events: Lunch at Oceana Grill and Bowling.

We are happy to be offering two social events at this year's AAG.

The first is a lunch on Wednesday, April 11 from 11:30-1:30 at Oceana Grill (food and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided)

The second is bowling on Thursday, April 12 from 6:15-8:15pm at Fulton Alley Bowling (light food and non-alcoholic drinks provided plus shoe rental for bowling). This event is limited to 25 people.

There is limited capacity for both events, so if you are interested in joining us for either/both events, we ask you to sign up using the following form: <https://bit.ly/2GIm9A8>

If the capacity is met on either event, a waiting list will be used to invite people if anyone cancels.

These events are great opportunities to have fun, socialize, and network with other GSAG members.

