

GSAG Newsletter

Graduate Student Affinity Group of the Association of American Geographers
<http://community.aag.org/GraduateStudentAffinityGroup/home>

Highlights: AAG Meeting April 21-25

Hyatt Regency, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL.

GSAG Welcome

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

8 am – 9:40 am

Columbus AB, Hyatt, East Tower, Gold Level

GSAG Plenary

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Dr. Audrey Kobayashi:

“The academic as activist: rewards and perils”

4:40 pm – 6:20 pm

Hong Kong, Hyatt, West Tower, Gold Level

GSAG Business Meeting

All members welcome to attend

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Columbus H, Hyatt, East Tower, Gold Level

GSAG Lunch Reception

Field Museum Bistro

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Please email Rae Choi (Choi.621@osu.edu) or Amelia Duffy-Tumasz (ameliadt@scarletmail.rutgers.edu) to join us



2014-2015 GSAG Board

Chair

Brian Williams
The University of Georgia

Vice-Chair

Rae Choi
Ohio State University

Secretary

Kalli Doubleday
University of Texas, Austin

Community Builder

Renee Pieschke
Amelia Duffy-Tumasz

Treasurer

Graciela Sandoval
Texas State University

Assistant Treasurer

Ana Sanchez-Rivera
University of Maryland

Historian

Levi Van Sant
University of Georgia

AAG Council Representative

Sara Diamond
University of Texas, Austin



From the Chair, Brian Williams

As the incoming chair of the Graduate Student Affinity Group, I would like to thank the wonderful folks who have welcomed me into the group and worked with me over the past couple of years. Laura Cano Amaya, the past chair, has been tireless in her work for GSAG. I am honored to serve with Rae Choi, the new vice chair, who is both dedicated and a constant source of great ideas. Renee Pieschke and Amelia Duffy-Tumasz, the GSAG community builders, do a wonderful job with the difficult task of communicating and reaching out to GSAG members at universities both across the country and around the world. As GSAG historian, Levi Van Sant is responsible for maintaining an archive of GSAG activities and publications—crucial to ensuring continuity in an organization that is characterized by a great deal of turnover, since very rarely is our goal as graduate students to remain graduate students forever. Graciela Sandoval has been central, as treasurer, to key GSAG functions like our award competition. Filling her shoes would be a difficult task, but the treasurer-in-training, Ana Sanchez-Rivera, seems more than capable. GSAG now has a non-voting representative at the AAG council meeting, and Sara Diamond has done a great job of representing us in that capacity. Last but not least, Kalli Doubleday is responsible for the beautiful newsletter that you are now reading.

In a way, GSAG is a microcosm of graduate school as a whole; it's an opportunity to take part in uncompensated labor in work of something you care about. It is precisely this aspect of the graduate experience that I believe makes GSAG so important. As Mona Domosh has pointed out in her [AAG president's column](#), the academy is increasingly dependent upon precarious and contingent labor. This is both the environment that we find ourselves in as graduate students, and the challenge we may face if we seek academic employment in the future. As a group, we have often struggled to strike a balance between GSAG activities geared towards "professionalization," and our desire to advocate around the particular challenges faced by graduate students. I suspect that many of you who are reading this column have yourselves struggled with the particular tension between activist engagement and professional development. Our events at the 2015 annual conference in Chicago reflect both aspects of academic life.

We are excited to be co-sponsoring the Welcome to the AAG panel again this year. The session will feature a diverse set of panelists who will discuss how to make the most of the annual conference, and is a great way for first time attendees to get oriented and to meet others who are new to the conference. Our professional development award is intended to defray the costs of conference attendance for 6 conference attendees. I'm also happy to announce that Audrey Kobayashi will be giving the GSAG plenary address, presenting on "The academic as activist: rewards and perils". Dr. Kobayashi has a great deal of experience negotiating the terrain of academic activism, and I couldn't think of a more perfect topic for a GSAG plenary. Our GSAG business meeting—though I prefer to think of it as a *members'* meeting—is a great opportunity to become actively involved in GSAG and to meet other graduate students. If you would like to become an officer, we are looking for nominations. In particular, we seek a vice-chair who is able to become chair in 2016. Approximately 40% of AAG members are students, and although we now have a student representative to the AAG council, we still lack a vote. GSAG is an opportunity for active participation as a graduate student, which are confident will translate to an increasing voice in the direction of the AAG in future years.

I hope to see you at our events in Chicago. If you are unable to come to the annual meeting, I'd still love to hear from you! Please email me at brianwilliams@gmail.com with any comments, questions, or ideas, or to learn how you can become involved.

GSAG Elections

Elections for GSAG Officers will take place at the GSAG Business meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 8:30-9:30pm. You need to be present to run for office. Nominations will be accepted until then. To nominate someone, email their names, email, and school and a brief statement to Brian at brianwilliams@gmail.com. Nominees must be members of the AAG and GSAG. There are more details on our website at gsag.aag.org.

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

Officer Responsibilities:

Vice-Chair: This is a one year position. The Vice-Chair becomes the Chair after one year and a board member one year later.

Treasurer: Includes running the travel/paper award competition financial components and dues.

Secretary: Responsibilities include writing the newsletter and other inter-GSAG communication.

Community Builder: Includes social media and building a graduate student community through communication.

Historian: Responsibilities include building an archive and recording important GSAG milestones.

GSAG Business Meeting/ELECTIONS
APRIL 22, 2015
8:30- 9:30 PM

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

Individual: \$3

President

Brian Williams
The University of Georgia
brianwilliams@gmail.com

Website

www.gsagaag.org

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.

New AAG Member Application PDF

GSAG congratulates the following winners of our 2015 Professional Development Award

Patrick Oberle
Emily Spangenberg
Sarah Halterman
Eri Kitada
Jie Yu

GSAG on Social Media

Get in touch & keep up to date with news and opportunities for geography grads!

Twitter [@gsagaag](#) – tag all your updates, panel & presentation info and photos at AAG with **#GSAG2015**

[Facebook Group](#) - For discussion and community building.

[Facebook Page](#) – For news updates and public announcements.

GSAG OFFICERS – JOIN US!

Chair – Brian Williams

GSAG provides an opportunity for geography students to support each other as we engage with our discipline and the broader context of higher education. In the light of the dramatic reorganization of higher education, and as graduate students face increasing pressure to perform and succeed, I believe GSAG is a crucial venue for graduate students to communicate (and organize) beyond the confines of our individual universities and departments. To me personally, GSAG has provided a remarkably supportive environment, and helped me stay abreast of the issues directly impacting graduate students. It has also provided a bit of stability at our exciting and sometimes terrifying behemoth of an annual conference.

Vice-President – Rae Choi

GSAG is a network of graduate students within and beyond AAG. GSAG not only represents student members who are a major constitutive part of AAG, but also provides opportunities to meet fellow graduate students and communicate about various issues regarding the discipline and grad life across universities. Join us -- be an active member!

Secretary – Kalli Doubleday

GSAG is a critical part of giving graduate students a gateway to the AAG and academic geography. In addition, having a space to meet as geography graduate students, across sub-disciplines and universities, is a powerful opportunity that can lead to great collaborations, discipline impacts and friendships.

Treasurer – Graciela Sandoval

GSAG is the social hub for young professionals in the field of Geography, especially for graduate students who want to continue this academic career as a professor after graduation or find a job in the private sector. GSAG is like a second family to me because I have made some great friendships that I know will last past my PhD program experience. It's also a good place to shake things up in our field and help plan for the future. If you want to see change and make some great friendships - you should join us and become an officer. Email me (gs1132@txstate.edu) if you want to find out more about GSAG or have questions about the AAG conference in Chicago.

Community Builder – Renee Pieschke

GSAG is important because it gives geography graduate students a sense of the larger academic community. It's a place where students can have a voice to discuss pressing issues in academia such as funding and mental health. At the annual meeting, GSAG helps to orient first time conference goers. I have made so many friends through GSAG over the past year.