

SPRING 2018

# *Place and Culture*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS



2018 AAG

## **New Orleans**

CGSG Event Highlights  
Marquee Speaker Information  
CGSG Sponsored Sessions

# Letter from the Chair



Dear CGSG Members,

I hope you are having a wonderful and productive spring semester! I think it is fair to say that many of us are quite excited to travel to the annual meeting in New Orleans to experience warm weather, all that this city has to offer, and of course, to benefit from the incredible variety of interesting sessions.

I have truly enjoyed my first year serving as Chair of the CGSG, and the opportunity it has afforded to collaborate with geographers worldwide. I deeply appreciate the support of the CGSG board, who has eased my transition into this role. We truly have a tremendous group of geographers on the CGSG board who regularly contribute their time, knowledge, and support to help our specialty group play a vital role within our broader community. I would like to thank Nick Crane, who serves as program director, Matt Cook, nominations director, and Ola Johansson, CGSG's Secretary/Treasurer, in particular for all of their hard work and patience throughout the year while I reacquainted myself with the CGSG after a two year absence.

For the last few months, the CGSG board has worked tirelessly to make this year's annual meeting another success. Graduate student representatives Jordan Brasher, Mark Alan Rhodes, and Hanna Gunderman have organized the CGSG breakfast which is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, from 7-9 a.m. at the Starbucks in the Sheraton Hotel. I warmly invite you to join us for coffee, pastries, and conversation. This is always a wonderful event and a great way to meet new friends—and perhaps even future collaborators! The grad reps also worked to organize our fantastic photo exhibit, which can be found this year the foyer to the south of the Registration room, near the River Tower elevator bank in the Marriott.

I also want to call attention to the report our graduate students reps have provided in this newsletter, and I encourage you to give it a careful read. They have authored an inspiring piece reflecting on their own experiences with and resistances to white supremacy in troubling times.

I would also invite you to attend our annual Marquee Speaker Address scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in the Borgne Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in the Sheraton. This

year we are honored to welcome Michael Crutcher, who will present a paper entitled "Revisiting Tremé, New Orleans' Most Endangered Neighborhood." In preparation for this event, I encourage you to read Nick Crane and Joseph Patrick Moose's reflections on re-reading *Tremé*, published in this newsletter.

Student awards winners will also be announced during the Marquee session. A sincere thank you to Timur Hammond for organizing the CGSG Student awards and grants program.

We encourage you to join us for our Business Meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 12, from 11:50 AM - 1:10 PM in Balcony L, Marriott Hotel, 4th Floor. It is a great opportunity to meet other cultural geographers, the CGSG board members, and contribute to the discussion on the next year's Marquee speaker. We sincerely welcome your suggestions on how we can serve you better, and we hope you will join us there.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your membership and support of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group. Your membership truly matters, as it is thanks to our members that we are able to fund graduate student research, host marquee speakers, and coordinate special sessions on an annual basis. We thank you for all your contributions: for volunteering as judges for student competitions, and for attending the Marquee Session, the business meeting, the breakfast, and of course all the fascinating CGSG sessions. A special thank you to Alexandra Giancarlo for her fascinating piece on Southwestern Louisiana's Creole and Cajun Homelands. Thank you also to Gareth John and David Wall in the Department of Geography and Planning at St. Cloud State University for offering a glimpse into their wonderful undergraduate program.

We owe special thanks to Chris Post and Kent State University Stark Campus for their continued support in hosting the CGSG website. I encourage you to visit the website on a regular basis for news and information about all of our activities and events; <http://www.kent.edu/stark/cgsg>.

Safe travels to New Orleans!  
Shari Wilcox, CGSG Chair  
U. of Wisconsin-Madison  
[sewilcox@wisc.edu](mailto:sewilcox@wisc.edu)

## In this issue:

Letter from the Chair...	2	SW LA's Creole and Cajun Homelands...	17
Marquee Announcement...	3	Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference	19
Rereading Tremé...	4	CGSG Featured Department...	20
2018 Elections...	7	Report from Program Director...	21
Report from the Awards Director...	8	CGSG Featured Field Trips	22
Grad Organized Events	12	Business Meeting...	24
Report from the Grad Student Reps...	13	2017 Annual Meeting Minutes...	25
Report from the Treasurer...	16	Call for Papers...	27
		Message from CGSG Chairs...	29

# 2018 AAG Marquee Address



**Michael  
Crutcher to  
Deliver the  
2018 CGSG  
Annual  
Marquee  
Address in  
New  
Orleans**

**“Revisiting Tremé,  
New Orleans’ Most  
Endangered  
Neighborhood”**

**Wednesday, April 11 at 5:20 PM  
Borgne Room, Sheraton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**



# The Idea of Racial Progress and the Ongoing Racialization of American Landscapes: Rereading Michael Crutcher's *Tremé*

By Nicholas Jon Crane  
University of Wyoming

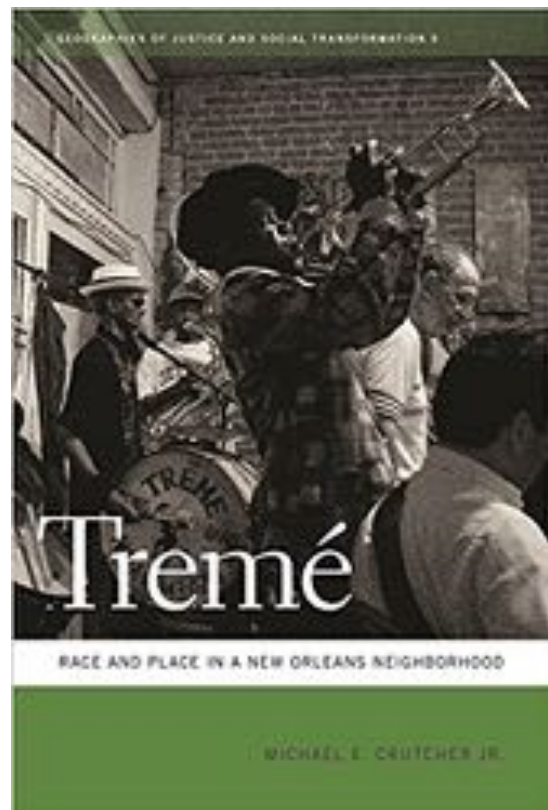
Joseph Patrick Moose  
University of Wyoming



Crutcher wrote *Tremé* at a time when readers were still making sense of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and a recovery effort that reproduced race and class inequalities across the urban region. Crutcher therefore appropriately ends his book with an epilogue on how the neighborhood and the encompassing city were being redefined through forms of post-Katrina recovery that undermined black claims on the city. This, Crutcher concludes, is the context within which the people of Tremé will “continue fighting to maintain their presence in the landscape” (Crutcher 2010, p. 126).

[continued on next page]

Michael Crutcher's Cultural Geography Specialty Group marquee lecture at the 2018 meeting of the American Association of Geographers is an occasion to look back at his book *Tremé: Race and Place in a New Orleans Neighborhood*, and to reflect on what it means to read Crutcher's book in this distinct conjuncture in 2018. Our moment is distinct in terms of both the vocabularies and repertoires of racial justice struggles and also the geographical debates that accompany them. Here we suggest that, in addition to all that is obviously successful about Crutcher's book – its presentation of the historical context within which the contemporary politics of neighborhood change emerged in US cities, and its synthesis of political economic theorization with interpretation of cultural landscapes, *Tremé* remains especially current because of how it challenges what Joseph Winters (2016, p. 4) recently identified as “a pervasive commitment to the idea of progress in culture.” Crutcher's analysis of Tremé challenges narratives of “racial progress” that obscure the ongoing racialization of American landscapes to instead unflinchingly engage our violent history and present. From that willingness to write through painful truths without conciliatory gestures to forward-marching progress, Crutcher's analysis suggests the necessity of contemporary racial justice struggle.



# Rereading Michael Crutcher's *Tremé* (con't)



The continuity to which Crutcher points in this last line of *Tremé* has its antecedents in policy negotiations and cultural politics that have invested the neighborhood with meaning. Each chapter of *Tremé* details how these have produced or challenged the identity of Tremé as, for example, a cradle of African American performance traditions (including jazz and second-line parading), and, since the 1970s, as a “historically significant” neighborhood, a designation that affirms pride in place but also facilitates gentrification that is displacing longtime residents.

In each of his chapters, Crutcher synthesizes a political economic explanation for place-based struggles with an appreciation for the meaning making and boundary making practices that produce place identities. Implicit throughout the chapters – and this is certainly evident from our discussions of Crutcher’s book in Cultural Geography classrooms – is a sense of *ongoingness*, a sense that the cultural politics and policy negotiations of the past have created conditions for, and now also help us understand, the ongoing racialization of urban landscapes in the US today. For example, in discussions of how a robust community of “free people of color” fought the roll back of civil rights through the 1896 *Plessy v Ferguson* decision, or of how the endurance of black institutions was undermined through federal infrastructure policy in the 1960s, *Tremé* challenges us

to dispense with the assumption that contradictions and inequalities in our society might resolve themselves if only we wait. And indeed, even if through stories of trauma, Tremé the neighborhood emerges, through Crutcher’s analysis, as an excellent place through which to examine the forms of engagement we may need to combat the ongoing production of racial injustice. We learn that the neighborhood cultivated the emergence of vital political formations, such as the Creole radicalism of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which anticipated anti-assimilationist varieties of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century civil rights organizing and which refused to be enrolled in comforting narratives of ascendance and progress that would deny the experience of white supremacy. The cultural landscape of Tremé now reflects the materialization of discourses that inflect racial justice struggles all over the country. So again, as Crutcher concludes (2010, p. 126), the people of Tremé “continue fighting to maintain their presence in the landscape.”

If indeed, as Joseph Winters (2016, p. 6) writes, “the effectiveness of power depends partly on its ability to produce forgetful subjects,” Crutcher’s analysis of the ongoing racialization of American cultural landscapes exemplifies a politically necessary corrective. The book’s presentation of racialization as “ongoing” resonates with recent contributions to the scholarship on settler colonialism (Jafri 2017) in showing that racial injustices are continually reenacted. For readers in 2018, Crutcher’s book dispenses with reassuring stories of inevitable progress towards “a more perfect union” at a time when these stories of consolation clearly need to be unsettled. Simultaneously, however, in his analysis of ongoingness as such, readers are allowed the “possibility of intervention and transformation” rather than being called upon to resign themselves to a violence that is “*always already there*” (Jafri 2017). This is because *ongoing* racialization paradoxically suggests an embodied

# Rereading Michael Crutcher's *Tremé* (con't)



potential to interrupt its performance, and opportunities to strategically challenge the sedimentation of discourses like that of “racial progress” which insulate racial injustice from critique. So, when we celebrate Crutcher’s book for its unflinching engagement with our violent history and present, we do so because it creates the conditions for a kind of hope.

For cultural geographers, one way of reading *Tremé* in today’s political climate might be as a prompt for the kind of critical attentiveness to the “continuing significance of white supremacy in the US racial landscape” that Joshua Inwood promotes in a recent essay (Inwood 2018). Here, against stories of progress that justify apathy, as if with the simple passage of time, equality and the resolution of tension will be achieved, Crutcher offers stories of struggle and persistence. These stories of reenactments of racial injustice in the history of New Orleans, and stories of performance traditions and institutions through which Tremé residents have sought to remain present in the urban landscape, promote a kind of hope that is opened up by attunement to past losses. *Tremé’s* is a hope made possible only by confronting the traumas that punctuate our present, and by seeing in contemporary injustices opportunities for intervention

in ongoing processes of racialization. With this willingness and desire for attunement, we hope you will join us at the AAG meeting on Wednesday evening for Michael Crutcher’s 2018 Cultural Geography Specialty Group marquee lecture, “Revisiting Tremé: New Orleans’ most endangered neighborhood” (5:20pm in the Borgne Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, at the Sheraton).

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Inwood, Joshua. 2018. “It is the innocence which constitutes the crime”: Political geographies of white supremacy, the construction of white innocence, and the Flint water crisis. *Geography Compass*, 12(3): DOI: 10.1111/gec3.12361

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Winters, Joseph. 2016. *Hope Draped in Black: Race, Melancholy, and the Agony of Progress*. Durham: Duke University Press.



# CGSG Elections

Dear CGSG Members,

I am happy to report to you in my second year as CGSG Nominations Director that we have once again had a highly successful election season! We are now in our fourth year of holding online elections to allow broader participation from the CGSG community, including those who cannot be present at the annual AAG conference or the CGSG business meeting.

This year, online elections were administered using Google Forms and required users to submit an email address for verification. Elections ran from March 23 to April 6, and results will be announced at the CGSG business meeting on Thursday, April 12. Results will also be posted following the meeting to the AAG Knowledge Community for wider distribution.

This year we are electing a new CGSG Secretary-Treasurer, Nominations Director, Program Director, and Graduate Student Representative, each to two-year positions that will run through the 2020 AAG meeting. We received two self-nominations for the Grad Student Representative position, and one each for the Secretary-Treasurer, Nominations Director, and Program Director.

Thanks to everyone who remains committed to serving the CGSG—certainly signs of healthy and growing organization! Please consider running for a position next year when I send the annual call for nominations.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Matthew Cook  
CGSG Nominations Director, 2016-2018  
Department of Geography & Geology  
Eastern Michigan University  
mcook40@emich.edu



# Report from the Awards Director

Dear CGSG Members,

It is my pleasure to announce the results of the 2018 research and student paper awards, which will be formally announced at the Marquee Speaker Session in New Orleans and presented at the business meeting of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group.

We had a very competitive research grant competition, with a total of 30 submissions at the MA and PhD level. We awarded two Research Grant Awards in 2018, one at the PhD level and one at the Master's level. Mae Miller (Graduate Center, City University of New York) received a \$1,000 Denis Cosgrove PhD Research Grant Award for her project "Sea Stories: Maritime Labor and the Geographies of the Global Black Freedom Struggle." John Kendall (University of Minnesota) received a \$250 MA-level research award for his project, "The evangelical mission and its Orient: American Protestantism in Kurdistan." On behalf of the executive committee, which read and evaluated all of the research proposals, we would like to thank all of our applicants this year.

Our paper competition – perhaps not surprisingly – reflected the methodological, conceptual, and topical breadth that characterizes Cultural Geography today. Our specialty group's Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov PhD Student paper award will be presented to Jessa Loomis (University of Kentucky) for her paper, "Holding Hope: Aspirational Economic Subjects and the Temporalities of Hardship." As one judge noted in their evaluation of the paper, this was "a fascinating paper that examined how 'hope' is deployed by financial planners towards their clients in a future-oriented politics that depletes recognition (let alone resistance) to the structural conditions of oppression in the present, and as the author(s) conclude, also block an alternative political solidarity firmly grounded in the present." We congratulate her and all of those who submitted their papers for consideration. I would especially

like to thank the three anonymous referees who judged our paper competition. Continuing a tradition established by Joni Palmer, our previous Awards Director, they provided generous and critical feedback to all of the authors who submitted papers for consideration. We thank them for their time and support.

This past year, the Cultural Geography Specialty Group also established a new award for Best Paper by Adjunct or Non-Tenure Track Faculty. Although we did not receive any submissions during this application cycle, we hope to receive more applications in the future and would appreciate your help in publicizing this award. In doing so, we also hope to increase the visibility of precarious labor and to make one – however small – contribution to helping those scholars continue to participate in our discipline.

Finally, we also established a new online system for submitting and evaluating applications. There were a few bumps during the process, but I would like to thank everyone who helped to make these competitions possible. We look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans and to continuing the CGSG's tradition of student research support.

Best wishes,  
Timur Hammond, CGSG Awards Director  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography  
Maxwell School  
Syracuse University  
[twhammon@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:twhammon@maxwell.syr.edu)





# 2017 CGSG Award Recipients

## 2017 Cosgrove Award Recipient

**"Shifting grounds: changes in the meaning of home for Vietnamese refugee women across generations"**

Sơn Ca Lâm  
Clark University

My family is from Việt Nam. I was born in a refugee camp in the Philippines. My research, supported in part by the Denis E. Cosgrove Research Grant, brought me back to a motherland I last visited eight years ago. My research investigates the impact of forced displacement on the everyday practices that establish home for displaced peoples. I am following the daily lives of Vietnamese women in ten families through three generations: grandmas in the U.S. and Việt Nam, mothers (first displaced generation) in the U.S, and granddaughters (second generation) born in the U.S. There is no one word for "belonging" in Vietnamese; instead it is contextually specified such that one is a "a part of" something, or "comes from" somewhere. The location of insider/outsider is constructed through one's positionality in the language. In social interactions, I refer to myself through my role in relation to the other person: as younger sister to older sister, as niece to aunty or grandma, etc.

Bà (grandma) is 83-years-old. She wakes up at 2AM when her daughter, whom I call dì (auntie), begins making xôi (sticky rice) to sell at the market. Parkinson's disease make it difficult for bà to do house chores; she reads the bible until dì pushes her xôi cart to the market at 6:00AM. Then bà cleans what she can. Bà's education was disrupted when the French shut down schools in the countryside when she was in third grade. Although she now lives in the southern region, she has a northern accent- a result of multiple relocations as they were fleeing communist forces during the Việt Nam - American War. Her daughter and granddaughter, whom I already interviewed in the U.S., left the country over 25 years ago. They brought her to live with them, but she decided to return to Việt Nam after 6 months of being mostly home alone in the Boston winter, watching the buses go by outside her window while everyone was at work and school.

As we talk, her great grandnephew sleeps on the tile floor next to my chair. At noon, we walk to the corner of an alleyway filled metal tables and stools for a lunch of cơm bình dân (common people's food consisting of rice and various side dishes). After lunch, I lay on the cool tile floor beside bà's bed in the living room as she tells me stories she learned from eavesdropping adult conversations as a child. Back then, people know rain will come when ants go up the tree. When the water is not clear, fisherman know that waves are big, so they don't go out to sea.

Across an ocean, the practice of extending kinship beyond the family unit in the Vietnamese language remains constant outside the motherland, where people must grapple with the things they have left behind and (re)make home. Every family I have shadowed has told me "coi như người nhà." – act as if you are a family member. I turn off my camcorder, and we nap, as most people in Việt Nam do in the afternoon.



# 2017 CGSG Award Recipients

## Jordan-Bychkov Student Paper Award

Alexandra Ginacarlo

I was very pleased and honored to receive the Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov Award for outstanding paper by a doctoral student for my research on cultural representation claims within southwestern Louisiana's black Creole communities. Thanks to the incredibly helpful feedback on my paper by CGSG reviewers, among others, it will be published in the *Journal of Cultural Geography* as "Don't call me a Cajun! Race and Representation in Louisiana's Acadiana Region." This paper is a part of my dissertation, "Creoles of Louisiana's Southwest: Race, Space, and Belonging," and other findings from it have been published as "Democracy and Public Space in Louisiana's Creole Trail Rides," which was awarded best annual paper by the *Southeastern Geographer* in 2016.

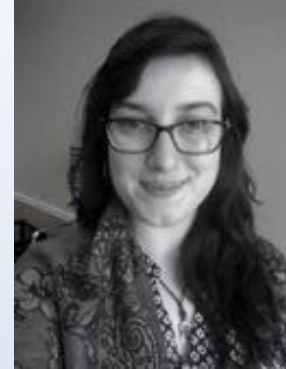
In December 2017, my research was featured as the cover story for *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*, the magazine of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

At present, I am synthesizing and revising research findings gathered in the fall of 2016 with the aid of a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This research analyzes communal hog-butcherings (*bougeries*) within black communities in rural Louisiana, demonstrating how they serve both a livelihood-maintenance function as well as a place-making and culture-affirming activity.

I graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada in June 2017. After graduation, I worked for a human rights focused non-profit in Ottawa, Ontario, the Canadian Access and Inclusion Project, until the end of 2017. I presently work as an Academic Assistant at Queen's University. My ultimate goal is to work in academia and I am actively on the job market. I am grateful to the CGSG for their support and look forward to my ongoing engagement with the group!



# 2017 CGSG Award Recipients



Master's Research Award Winner  
Michelle Padley  
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill

In my masters, I explore the relationship between poverty and US housing policy by investigating the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, a federal policy which is responsible for producing the majority of affordable housing in the United States today. This program awards tax credits to individual developers, thus incentivizing private and not - for profit entities to produce affordable housing. I situate my work in Durham, North Carolina, where economic and population growth has increased a demand for affordable housing. In my project, I seek to understand how LIHTC, as a force that spatially organizes the built environment, remakes gender, race, and class relations. More specifically, I am using my MA work to think about how LIHTC policy reveals the role of housing in constructing the relationship between the state, broader global forces such as financialization, and poverty.

During the Summer and Fall of 2016, the MA Student Research Grant from the Cultural Geography Specialty Group enhanced my ability to progress on this work. Specifically, I was able to use the funds to pay for local travel and basic cost of living expenses so that I could conduct participant observation of community events and City Council meetings related to housing. Through this work I was able to use conversations around housing affordability in Durham to guide my analysis of LIHTC. In local papers and community events Durham residents express worry that rising rental costs will push out working class and low income earners. One social service practitioner voiced a severe reality to me: "When people talk about 'affordable housing' they often talk about making sure there are units available for people like teachers, middle income earners. The lowest income earners often get left out of the picture." Building off of already existing work on US housing policy from Urban Geography as well as my own participant observation, in my masters I argue that the housing system in the US renders certain bodies and persons as deserving of housing while others get left behind. In the second part of my work I turn to an analysis of LIHTC by way of interviews with affordable housing professionals in order to understand how this policy specifically reworks these patterns. I am incredibly grateful to the Cultural Geography specialty group award which allowed me to pursue this project.



## CGSG Coffee and Pastries

### Sheraton Starbucks

500 Canal Street

**Thursday, April 12th**  
**7:00– 9:00 a.m.**



The Graduate Student Representatives of the CGSG are excited to announce our annual breakfast at AAG 2018. We will be hosting a free, come-and-go style breakfast . This is a chance to meet the members of the CGSG, chat about research, and start your day with some coffee and pastries in a relaxed atmosphere. **All members of the CGSG are invited to attend.**

## CGSG Landscape Photography Exhibit

The exhibit will be displayed **Wednesday through Friday in the foyer to the south of the Registration room, near the River Tower elevator bank in the Marriott**



The Landscape Photography Exhibit has been part of CGSG programming since the 2009 meeting in Las Vegas. Over the past seven years, the exhibit has showcased photographs with short descriptive captions both from fieldwork and also more everyday encounters with cultural landscapes. Unique at the conference, the annual exhibit provides geographers with an opportunity to share images and stories that perhaps receive less attention in their paper presentations or panel comments.

2018 AAG  
Grad Rep  
Organized  
Events

# Graduate Student Representatives' Report

Dear CGSG Members,

As we prepare to journey to New Orleans for AAG 2018, we, the Graduate Representatives of CGSG, are reflecting upon this past year's multitude of international and regional geopolitical events that not only affected our understandings of and engagement with our political surroundings, our classrooms and our research, but also our ways of being in and navigating the university. According to the Anti-Defamation League, white supremacist recruitment efforts on college campuses spiked more than 200% (tripling) in 2017. Increasingly emboldened white supremacist organizations are targeting universities as centers of knowledge production precisely because the production of knowledge shines light on the darkness of their vile, bigoted ideologies. Cultural geographers, first as campus citizens and second as experts on landscape, space and place, have a responsibility to intervene in and challenge white supremacy and participate in the work of making the university a space where all campus citizens belong. Cultural geographers would not think twice about traveling halfway around the world to study complex social, political, and economic problems in faraway places but often neglect the work waiting to be done right outside their doors. This needs to change.

In what follows, we offer reflections on our experience with white supremacy and other forms of exclusion on our respective campuses and offer some examples of how we have challenged or resisted discrimination.

I (Jordan) live and work on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. Just last week (as of this writing), our university hosted a white supremacist group known as the Traditionalist Workers Party (TWP) on our campus for a "lecture series." The TWP deceived university officials to secure space on campus by misrepresenting themselves and applying for the use of space under the name of a church. Local news reported that around 45 people showed up for the "lecture" and nearly 300 showed up in counter-protest on a cold and rainy February afternoon. That same week, the Department of Geography hosted its biennial research conference (GeoSym) organized by its graduate students. We almost lost our keynote speaker for the conference, a world-renowned former NASA scientist and distinguished meteorologist, and also a person of color, who did not feel comfortable being on our campus on the same week as the TWP. In response, I helped organize a panel session at the conference on how to best navigate and resist white supremacy on campus that featured local experts within and outside geography on racism as well as several graduate and undergraduate students from across campus. The collaborative panel session was well-received and helped connect students and faculty from across campus in solidarity and spark what I hope are mentor-mentee relationships amongst marginalized campus citizens. Many people mentioned that it was nice to simply have a safe space to talk about living and working on a campus that has shown itself to be hostile to marginalized people by cutting all funding to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in 2016.

# Graduate Student Representatives' Report (con't)

Cultural geographers are well positioned to intervene in white supremacy on campus in at least two ways. As campus citizens who happen to also understand the power of place and landscape to communicate sets of values, we must integrate research, teaching and activism in strategic ways. First, we should offer our expertise on landscape and place as campuses struggle to create a built environment that honors and includes all kinds of people, especially people of color. Many campuses are re-visiting controversial monuments, memorials, and place names that commemorate white supremacists or colonizers. Cultural geographers are well-positioned to emphasize that these controversies are not simply a matter of political correctness but contribute to the sense of place and belonging that campus citizens experience and inhabit. We should be actively involved as experts as our universities come to grips with the legacies of white supremacy reflected in and refracted through the built commemorative environment of the campus. Second, we should leverage our roles as instructors to promote an atmosphere of inclusion and condemn any racist, homophobic, sexist, xenophobic, or otherwise exclusionary rhetoric in the classroom. As spaces of knowledge production, what goes on in our classrooms is to some extent under our control and it is therefore our responsibility to cultivate knowledge production practices that do not perpetuate exclusion but instead deconstruct and shine light on bigotry. Whatever we can do to strengthen this light also strengthens our respective programs. Working through departments and student governments, many universities have included cultural geography as part of various (global, gender, etc...) diversity

requirements. Emphasizing this connection between cultural geography, social justice, and inclusivity in our various leadership roles can only help ourselves and our institutions.

Cultural geographers at all professional levels in the university, including graduate teaching assistants, should critically assess and strategically pursue ways to promote inclusivity and justice on campus. We should also not hesitate to combine our expertise with our teaching. I (Mark) take each of my classes to the memorial landscapes of the May 4 shootings at Kent State to not only better understand the historical events which occurred that day, but to apply landscape analysis to their everyday landscape. The students conduct mock interviews, record the layers of landscape, document their personal experience, and contextualize these experiences through archival data in a way that can be applied to any memorial landscape, particularly those which obscure white supremacy, sexism, fascism, etc... We should also remember to take care of ourselves and one another so that we can create and maintain the emotional and political energy necessary to carry out this work with regularity.

Navigating white supremacists' increasing presence on college campuses involves not only direct action and strategic teaching, but also necessitates practices of self-care for both our emotional and intellectual well-being. I (Hannah), along with countless other graduate students across the country and the world, have struggled to maintain positive mental health while balancing the many demands of graduate school. However, this struggle becomes increasingly complex when considering the emotional



# Graduate Student Representatives' Report (con't)

(and even physical) duress that can result from interacting with or among white supremacists. Their violent rhetoric and misguided logic undermines our work, threatens our identities, and builds extremely dangerous cultural landscapes particularly for individuals from marginalized populations. I have found comfort in the following three self-care techniques that I would like to share with my fellow cultural geographers, and anyone else who may be feeling the debilitating emotional effects of white supremacy on their campuses and in their communities: first, I recommend seeking out people from inside and outside of your department who are also struggling to comprehend and navigate the rise of white nationalism. Go to a coffee shop. Start a group text message. Sit down for five minutes, or five hours, and commiserate. Working through these emotions with a group of like-minded people can be therapeutic and inspiring. Second, utilize your campus mental health resources. Speaking specifically about the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, our campus offers all full-time students free counseling services throughout the year, as well as multiple opportunities to discuss topics in mental health with professionals trained in these issues. Third, employ one of your greatest tools as an academic: your written voice. Start a blog. Publish an online editorial. Submit a manuscript. Using your academic platform to grapple with, strategize against, and emotionally navigate white supremacy can be a liberating experience for both yourself and those who read your work. We, as cultural geographers, cannot linger in fighting white supremacy; we must act quickly, boldly, and justly. However, to fight this battle, we must also take care of ourselves.

The CGSG is sponsoring many sessions at AAG 2018 that discuss the cultural geographies of white supremacy. For example, start your conference out with a two-part paper session titled **“Placing the Confederacy’: Constructing, Removing, and Renaming Confederate Monuments in the South and Beyond”** on Tuesday, April 10th, from 12:40pm to 4:20pm in Galerie 4 of the Marriott, 2nd Floor. After, check out **“#TakeEmDown: Anti-Racist Struggles to Remove Symbols of White Supremacy from Public Spaces”** from 4:40pm to 6:20pm (same day and location). Our **marquee address will be delivered by Dr. Michael Crutcher**, an urban scholar with expertise in the intersections of race and place. This will take place on Wednesday, April 11th from 5:20pm to 7:00pm in the Borgne Room of the Sheraton, 3rd Floor. While you are exploring sessions, please swing through the Registration breezeway and check out the annual **CGSG Landscape Photography Competition**. We’ve got some great entries this year that highlight the importance of landscape appreciation and analysis in geographic research, and showcase stunning images from across the world. Further, the **annual CGSG Breakfast**, organized by the Graduate Student Representatives, will be held Thursday, April 12th from 7am-9am at the Sheraton Starbucks. This will be a relaxed, come-and-go style event that is open to all geographers regardless of sub-discipline. No RSVP is necessary; please come for free coffee and pastries (up to the first \$250), and meet the members of CGSG!

Jordan Brasher  
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# Report from the Treasurer

The balance of the CGSG account decreased from \$3780 at the end of 2016 to \$3352 at the end of 2017. This is a result of our total expenses increasing slightly (see left) as well as a modest decrease in incomes, which comes from collected membership dues. In 2017, we collected \$2406 in membership dues compared to \$2505 in 2016. This 4 percent decline can be explained by the fact that membership in the group has dropped at corresponding levels, from 850 one year ago (March 2017) to 812 currently (as of March 2018). Faculty members pay the full \$5 membership fee while students pay \$2. It is possible that some geographers seek out membership in more specialized groups within AAG rather than broad-based ones, such as the CGSG.



Our expenses include monetary awards given to the recipients of our student research grant and paper competitions. We especially emphasize the Denis Cosgrove Research Grant for Ph.D. dissertation research (it is a \$1000 award), which attracts a large number of high quality applicants every year. In addition, the annual marquee speaker at the AAG meeting receives an honorarium, in part to offset registration and other expenses. Last year's speaker in Boston was Anne Whiston Spirn, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning at MIT. One additional minor expense (\$150) this year was a co-sponsorship of the *Geographical Review* speaker in Boston. We also spent \$100 more on awards judges' honorarium than during the previous year, as we employed more judges. On the other hand, we reduced expenses for the hosting of the 2017 AAG graduate student breakfast social by \$129 compared to 2016, as it was held in a low cost location (Dunkin Donuts). See the balance sheet for details. In sum, the overall modest decrease in available CGSG funds this year is not a cause for concern as \$3352 is still above the level two years ago (\$3038). Also, extrapolating from last year's AAG expenses, the CGSG should have approximately \$1000 remaining after bills from the upcoming New Orleans meeting are paid.

Any questions regarding the budget can be addressed to the treasurer at: [johans@pitt.edu](mailto:johans@pitt.edu).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ola Johansson  
CGSG Secretary-Treasurer

Date	Description	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
12/31/16	Dues collected for Dec. 2016	104		3,780.31
1/31/17	Dues collected for Jan. 2017	220		4,000.31
2/28/17	Dues collected for Feb 2017	155		4,155.31
3/29/17	Paper Judge Honorarium		-50	4,105.31
3/29/17	Paper Judge Honorarium		-50	4,055.31
3/29/17	Paper Judge Honorarium		-50	4,005.31
3/29/17	Masters Research Grant		-250	3,755.31
3/31/17	Dues collected for March 2017	129		3,884.31
4/17/17	Breakfast meeting reimbursement (Cook)		-84.06	3,800.25
4/18/17	Terry Jordan-Bychkov PhD Paper Award		-250	3,550.25
4/3/17	Denis Cosgrove Research Grant		-1,000.00	2,550.25
4/17/17	AAG Marquee Speaker Honorarium (Spirn)		-950	1,600.25
4/30/17	Dues collected for April 2017	98		1,698.25
5/31/17	Dues collected for May 2017	141		1,839.25
6/30/17	Dues collected for June 2017	85		1,924.25
7/31/17	Dues collected for July 2017	55		1,979.25
8/31/17	Dues Collected for Aug 2017	103		2,082.25
9/30/17	Dues Collected for Sept 2017	182		2,264.25
10/5/17	Sponsorship of Geogr. Rev. AAG speaker		-150	2,114.25
10/31/17	Dues collected for Oct 2017	895		3,009.25
11/30/17	Dues collected for Nov 2017	246		3,255.25
12/31/17	Dues collected for Dec 2017	97		3,352.25

# Regional Reflections: Southwestern Louisiana's Creole and Cajun Homelands

Alexandra Giancarlo  
Canadian Access and Inclusion Project (CAIP),  
Lawyers' Panel



An all-black parade of horseback riders. Costumed groups roaming the countryside in pursuit of a chicken. Lively dancers packed into a local brunch joint, two-stepping to the rhythms of a black accordion player. In southwestern Louisiana, it somehow all fits.

These unique cultural expressions owe much to the region's eclectic, resourceful, and famously adaptive populations (Estaville 2001; Ancelet 2007). Louisiana's southwestern region is home to the Cajuns, who came to Louisiana as French-speaking Acadians after their deportation from the Canadian Maritimes in 1755 (Trepanier 1991). Equally significant to the region's singular food, music, and folklore offerings—though receiving relatively little recognition for their contributions—are the Creoles, who descend from former free Creoles of color, enslaved people, Europeans, and Native Americans (Spitzer 2003).

Given the present hyper-popularity of all things Cajun (Cajun spice blend, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Ragin' Cajuns sports franchise, Cajun Country Rice, Cajun Brewing Company, the Cajun Navy...) one may be surprised to learn that Cajun, historically, was far from a positive identification. Indeed, the moniker was once tantamount to a racial slur—a word reserved for the most uncouth among the lower strata of South Louisiana society. The "Cajun revival" of the 1960s and 1970s cast aside the stereotype of Cajuns as country buffoons and rehabilitated their image as salt-of-the-earth family-oriented traditionalists imbued with a *joie de vivre*. The political campaign of charismatic Edwin Edwards in the 1970s achieved a great deal of the reconfiguring of the label; he "legitimated" the term and promoted it widely during his multiple terms as state governor. Further, he expanded the term to include "not only those of Acadian descent, but rather to everyone having a French culture or French heritage in Louisiana" (Trepanier 1991, 164). In 1971, the state legislature even created the official region of "Acadiana" from 22 parishes (counties) of South Louisiana.

Though overly simplistic to portray every white person in the region as a Cajun—especially since they have a lesser-known mixed-race history—and every black person as a Creole, scholarly evidence going back decades strongly suggests that this is how the two groups think of each other (Wilson and Spitzer 1979; Dormon 1996; Gaudet 2001; Dubois and Horvath 2003). Increasingly, the multi-racial Creoles identify their race as black (Dormon 1996; Giancarlo 2016). This Cajun-Creole binary is, at times, a slippery one defined socially rather than phenotypically, which is not news to race scholars. Cajun scholar Stanford describes how she has had to explain to outsiders that "Creoles are black—though sometimes light-skinned black—and Cajuns are white—even if some appear dark skinned" (Stanford 2016, 64).

There is a great deal of overlap in Cajun and Creole cultural attributes resulting from generations of living alongside one another, though it would be disingenuous to portray this creolization as abstracted from the historical reality of slaveholding—yes, Cajuns held slaves—and cultural obfuscation. Take, for instance, rural Mardi Gras (think less "high-budget formalized parades *a la* New Orleans," more "brightly-costumed countryside-roaming vagabonds chasing chickens"). Originally, multiple groups in French Louisiana (non- more "brightly-costumed countryside-roaming vagabonds chasing chickens"). Originally, multiple groups in French Louisiana (non-Acadian whites, Cajuns, acculturated Anglo-Americans, and Creoles) engaged in this practice. By the mid-twentieth century Mardi Gras was in decline across all groups; shortly thereafter it was resurrected in the small town of Mamou, albeit with its emphasis shifted toward respectability and to acting "traditional" (Sexton 1999). Sexton argues that during this period, revival leaders selected cultural attributes shared across multiple groups, for instance Mardi Gras, labeled them "Cajun," and employed them in the promotion of a Cajun French identity. Thus the Cajun label came



# Southwestern Louisiana's Creole and Cajun Homelands (con't)

to represent the “exotic elements” of Louisiana culture and effectively served its purpose in promoting ethnic tourism. This label and its associations had the added value of creating an imagined Louisiana French community that is unambiguously white (Waddell 1983; Sexton 1999).

Many of the Creole musical expressions, particularly their accordion-led R&B-influenced zydeco music, have been subsumed into the category of “Cajun,” placing the Cajun culture in a relatively dominant position. Reporter Herman Fuselier, himself a Creole, penned an impassioned article expressing his frustration:

If we can say the words "black Creole" and the world doesn't explode, why are my brethren in the media afraid to do the same? I bring this up because over the last week or so, I've come across media accounts, local and national, on Zydeco. Nearly all describe Zydeco as "Cajun music." To do so is to disrespect the black Creole people of southwest Louisiana who invented it, as well as Cajuns, who have worked hard to preserve French music. (Fuselier, undated [early 2000s?])

Though Creoles note that their efforts towards cultural recognition are gaining ground, it is still not an exaggeration to say that, with few exceptions, “public displays of Creole culture have been acceptable only when they are incorporated as a minority into white-controlled events” (Sexton 1999, 307).

This exclusion from the mainstream has, somewhat paradoxically, contributed to the perpetuation of cultural traditions unique to the Creole population, one of the most prominent being the aforementioned black recreational horseback riding that pays homage to ancestors who were among the first cattlemen and women in what would become the United States (Giancarlo 2016). On other fronts, Cajun and Creole culture blend and even seem to meld: cultural Catholicism, folk medicine (including beliefs in folk healers or *traiteurs*), enduring French

language (mainly among the older generation), and community-based livelihood traditions (such as hog butcherings called *boucheries*).

Southwestern Louisiana is a rare place where locals argue over which corner store carries the best *boudin*, the fan-favorite *boucherie* dish. It's a place where residents imbue generations-long traditions with modern-day relevance—where black cowboys are offshore oil riggers, truck drivers, and zydeco musicians, and where pick-up driving locals speak variants of French dating to the colonial period. It's utterly perplexing, fascinating, and—at once—past, present, and future.

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# RACE, ETHNICITY, AND PLACE IX<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE

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# CGSG Featured Department: Department of Geography and Planning St. Cloud State University

*We are excited to debut a new feature in our newsletter, highlighting Geography programs who excel in undergraduate teaching in Geography. For our inaugural year, we are pleased to feature St. Cloud State University's (SCSU) Department of Geography and Planning.*

It is a great honor for St. Cloud State University's (SCSU) Department of Geography and Planning to be named CGSG Featured Department. Geography is just one of five programs in the 12-faculty department, which also includes Land Surveying; Planning and Community Development; Social Studies Teaching; and Travel and Tourism (soon to be Hospitality and Tourism). Geography has a long history on the banks of the upper Mississippi River in Central Minnesota. Established in 1869 (with plans for sesquicentennial celebrations presently in full swing), geography formed a cornerstone of teacher education at St. Cloud Normal School. As celebrated in the work of Jan Monk, who visited SCSU as Leopold Distinguished Speaker in 2010 and conducted research on the subject with our own students, women then dominated the teaching of geography in Normal Schools throughout the country. Over the years, geography maintained its rightful place on the curriculum as the institution itself went through various incarnations to become the regional comprehensive university it is today.

Housed in Stewart Hall in the School of Public Affairs, SCSU's geography program comprises five faculty representing and offering courses across a breadth of specialization within the discipline, including physical and environmental geography (Professor Misha Blinnikov); GIS, cartography and techniques (Professors Ben Richason and Jeff Torguson); and human and cultural geography (Professors Gareth John and David Wall). In the human geographic realm, this includes introductory courses in cultural and economic geography and upper division courses in Urban Planning, Political Geography, and Historical Geography. Students in the latter two courses, in particular, are introduced to the full expression of the cultural turn in geography that demands a critical and theoretically conscious pedagogical framework, whether it's exploring the popular geopolitics of Hollywood films in Political Geography or examining the role of paintings to understand processes of place-making in regions like Yellowstone in Historical Geography.

Unlike geography programs at major research institutions like the University of Minnesota, just down the road in the Twin Cities, SCSU is primarily focused on delivering high-quality yet affordable undergraduate education to students. The mission of our University is to prepare its graduates for life and work in the twenty-first century and a strong ethos of the geography program is in preparing all of our students for the next stage of their career, whether that's in public or private sector employment or further study. To help facilitate this, we place a great deal of emphasis on student research, particularly in their senior year. All SCSU geography majors design, research, write, and present their own thesis project on a topic of their choosing. Though they are required to present at the university-wide colloquium, our undergraduate students regularly opt to additionally present their papers or posters at regional geography conferences or at the national AAG meeting.

Besides a solid baccalaureate in geography, our program also offers an M.S. and a graduate certificate in Geography-GIS, with students frequently choosing a cultural or historical geographical focus for their thesis work. While several of our undergraduates continue their studies with us at the graduate level, others have spread their wings further afield in some of the country's top graduate programs for geography, including recent SCSU geography alumni currently pursuing PhDs at Boulder, Kent State, Ohio State, and Syracuse—personal achievements that our faculty share in and, like family, are enormously proud of. Indeed, the geography program at SCSU considers their students and their future paths, whether pursued close to home or farther away, as key to the continued success and relevance geography at SCSU and in a small but significant way that of discipline.

Gareth John  
Associate Professor of Geography

David Wall  
Professor of Geography



# CGSG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG

## Cultural Geography Specialty Group Sponsored Sessions at the 2018 AAG Meeting

The Cultural Geography Specialty Group (CGSG) is again playing a significant role in the shaping the AAG annual meeting. We have sponsored 101 sessions at the meeting, which can be found through the AAG website as well as on the scheduling app during the meeting. The **CGSG-sponsored sessions** showcase how contemporary cultural geographers are maintaining ties to and enriching our engagement with the traditional themes and concepts of our sub-discipline (place, landscape, identity) and simultaneously extending cultural geography beyond its traditional boundaries.

The 2018 program includes **our annual marquee lecture**, which will be delivered this year by **Dr. Michael Crutcher**, author of *Tremé: Race and Place in a New Orleans Neighborhood*. Crutcher will present "Revisiting Treme, New Orleans' most endangered neighborhood" on Wednesday evening at 5:20pm in the Borgne Room at the Sheraton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The CGSG is also a co-sponsor of **the 2018 Geographical Review lecture** by **Dr. Richard Campanella**, who will speak on Friday evening at 5:20 on the historical geography of New Orleans.

All cultural geographers and friends of cultural geography are invited to join us for coffee and a light breakfast on

Thursday morning at our annual **CGSG Breakfast Social**, which is organized as always by our graduate student representatives. Details can be found in their column in this newsletter.

We also invite cultural geographers and our extended community to participate in our **Business Meeting**, which is scheduled for Thursday at 11:50 in Balcony L of the Marriott on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. We will be recognizing award winners, confirming elections to the specialty group board, and planning programming for the coming year.

I wish everyone a fun and productive meeting in New Orleans, and I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to get involved in the CGSG-sponsored programming.

Nicholas Jon Crane  
CGSG Program Director  
University of Wyoming  
ncrane@uwyo.edu



# **CGSG Featured Field Trip: Zydeco, Gumbo, and Black Innovators: A Day Trip to Southwestern Louisiana Creole Country**

Wednesday, April 11

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Organizer: Alexandra Giancarlo

[alexandra.giancarlo@gmail.com](mailto:alexandra.giancarlo@gmail.com)

Capacity: 27

Cost/person: \$95.00



This field trip is a day trip to the southwestern part of Louisiana, home to the mixed-race French heritage Creoles. In collaboration with community members, we will be treated to a traditional Creole lunch and listen to a private music demo by renowned zydeco artist Keith Frank (and have a Q&A with the artist). The Black History Month exhibit at Opelousas Museum ("African American Business Owners and Innovators") has been extended to accommodate our group and the exhibit's curator, a Creole community historian, will be guiding our tour. Over the course of the day, we will learn about Creoles' little-acknowledged history—such as Creole cowboys, predating much of the white settlement of the area—and their often-observed contributions to the region's cultural offerings. En route, we will watch a classic documentary film on Creole lifeways by ethnomusicologist Nicholas Spitzer (Tulane) to set the scene.



# CGSG Featured Field Trip: Interpreting Slavery at River Road Plantations

Friday April 13

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Organizers: Ronald Schumann  
& Matt Cook

Leader: Amy Potter



Plantation museum sites differ widely in how they represent the institution of slavery and the lives of enslaved people. This tour of Oak Alley and Whitney Plantations showcases a range of approaches in interpreting these racialized cultural landscapes. While Oak Alley embodies the romantic image of the Southern plantation, replete with moss-draped oaks and mint juleps, recently opened Whitney Plantation stands as a memorial to enslaved Africans. A follow up, practitioner-meets-academic panel over lunch provides a forum for discussing interpretive best practices. Trip costs include round-trip transportation from the conference hotel, tour tickets, and a Cajun/Creole lunch.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE:**

**2018 CGSG**

**Business Meeting**

**Thursday, April 12**

**11:50 AM - 1:10 PM**

**Balcony L**

**Marriott Hotel 4th Floor**

**2018 AVAG**



# CGSG 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

**April 7, 2017**

**Boston, MA**

Meeting opened at 11.52am (by Chair Weronika Kusek).

## **The Chair's report:**

After attending the meeting of the Chairs of AAG specialty groups, Weronika reported that this AAG meeting is the largest ever with 7000 abstracts. Approximately one third of the attendees are international visitors.

With so many international scholars as part of the AAG, how can CGSG accommodate them? Weronika raised the issue of promoting a network of international cultural geography scholars. The board concurred but no concrete proposal was adopted.

## **Elections:**

Nominations Director Matt Cook reported on elections, which were held in late March and early April 2017. As last year, elections were held via online balloting. Sixty-six CGSG members voted. Online voting has increased participation compared to years when elections were held during the business meeting. CGSG had three open board positions this year: Shari Wilcox was elected Chair, Timur Hammond Awards Director, and Mark Rhodes Graduate Representative.

## **Awards:**

Awards Director Joni Palmer reports that Son Ca Lam received the PhD research grant and Michelle Padley received the Master's research grant. Finally, Alexandra Giancarlo won the PhD paper award, while none was given in the Master's category. Joni also stressed how students appreciate the feedback they get on their grant proposals, which is rarely offered by other grant giving entities.

We received many proposals on the PhD level but few by Master's students, which is a perennial problem because Master's students have to complete a proposal after only one semester of grad school. It was suggested that CGSG should reach out to academic advisors to promote our awards further. For example, we are not sure to what extent Master's students are aware of our awards.

Should budget permit, new awards were discussed. One option is an "exploratory" grant similar to the Humboldt Award, which was a temporary award that CGSG offered several years ago. An undergraduate award was also discussed, as was a career award to an experienced cultural geographer. The latter is a way to recognize tenured professors, which as a group has not been very active in CGSG lately. If a career award is implemented, Joni suggested a timeline that does not coincide with the other awards so to spread out the work over time for the Awards Director and others involved in the assessment of nominations.

# CGSG 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes (con't)

## **Budget:**

At the end of 2016, CGSG had \$3,780 in its account. That was a recovery from \$3,038 one year earlier. The increase is due to the fact that the marquee speaker of the San Francisco meeting declined her honorarium. The membership has declined from 1008 in February 2016 to 850 in March 2017 (with a slight uptick to approximately 900 at the time of the Boston meeting in April 2017). The CGSG income is entirely derived from membership fees where faculty pays \$5 and students \$2. The mix of the membership has moved towards students, and if that continues the CGSG income may decline slightly. Expenses (marquee speaker honorarium, student awards, and paper judges' honorariums) must be planned accordingly.

## **Graduate Student Activities:**

As in the recent past, the CGSG organized a graduate student breakfast at the Boston AAG. Eighteen people attended. The event was held at a Dunkin Donut at the cost of \$84.06.

The landscape photo exhibit attracted nine submissions this year. There has been a declining interest in the exhibit during the last few years. This year the winning entry will be submitted for publication in the journal *Material Culture* (the previous journal that we collaborated with – *Focus on Geography* – is no longer in publication). Ex officio board member Chris Post suggested that at the next meeting we could use a projector to show the photo entries, which may increase the visibility of the program.

## **New Business:**

The website of the CGSG is currently hosted at Kent State. The site is working well, but we also have an opportunity to purchase the domains [culturalgeography.com](http://culturalgeography.com) or [culturalgeography.org](http://culturalgeography.org). The price is reportedly low, possibly less than \$20 a year. Matt Cook motioned that CGSG should explore the purchasing of one of the aforementioned domains. Shari Wilcox seconded the motion. It passed unanimously without further debate.

One way for the CGSG to expand its activities would be to be affiliated with existing academic meetings, either those with a strong cultural geography component or regional meetings of the AAG. Exactly how such an arrangement could be organized is TDB.

With student membership growing within AAG, CGSG could also consider adding an undergraduate position on the CGSG board. Moreover, to increase attendance of the business meeting, a scheduling change away from the lunch hour was also suggested.

In general, CGSG has a large membership but few individuals who are actively involved in the group. One way of addressing that would be to use the database of our membership and identify departments that have traditionally been active and promote CGSG directly.

Meeting concluded at 1.00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ola Johansson Secretary-Treasurer



INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY FOR  
**Landscape,  
Place, &  
Material  
Culture**

# 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

September  
26-29, 2018  
New Orleans,  
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For more information,  
please contact:

Gerald McNeil,  
Conference Chair  
gerald.mcneil@islu.edu  
983.349.2307

You may also find  
information at the  
Society's website at:  
[www.pionieramerica.org](http://www.pionieramerica.org), under "Annual  
Meeting."



Join us in New Orleans As It Turns 100 Years Old  
to Experience This Year's Theme - **"New Orleans:  
A One-of-a-Kind Multi-Cultural City and its  
Surroundings"**

**The New Orleans Conference will use four  
smaller hotels** on one of New Orleans' famous  
streets - St. Charles Ave., where you will find the  
oldest streetcar line in the city. The hotels we are  
using are all on the streetcar line as well as Tulane  
University - where the paper sessions will be  
located. Three of the hotels we will be using are  
very close to each other and the fourth is the closest  
to Tulane. The next conference update will give  
you information about each hotel and how to make  
your reservations. The hotels are: The Columns  
Hotel, The Hampton Inn, The Best Western, St.  
Charles Inn, The Park View Historic Hotel. The  
Columns is two blocks from the Hampton Inn, and  
the Best Western Hotel. If you are driving to New  
Orleans, you should consider reservations at the  
Hampton or Best Western as they have parking  
lots. The Columns only has street parking. As  
mentioned previously, the Park View is close to  
Tulane with limited parking.

**The conference will begin Wednesday,  
September 26th** with the board meeting either at  
the Columns Hotel or the Hampton Inn.

**On Thursday, September 27th we will have a  
bus tour of several sections of New Orleans.**  
Other on-your-own-tours will be made available  
if needed. The bus tour will start by going into the  
Koyou St. John area with a tour of the First House.  
In close proximity is our next stop - St. Louis #1

Cemetery. Then we will head to the Lakefront  
Airport to tour one of New Orleans' great Art Deco  
buildings. After lunch at the airport, we will go  
to the Chalmette National Battlefield. From the  
battlefield we will head to the neighborhood called  
Holy Cross to tour some of the newer type houses  
built post Hurricane Katrina. We will also make  
a quick stop at the Decatur Steamboat Houses  
(see photo, above right) built in the early 1900s.  
These two steamboat houses are the only ones in  
New Orleans. Lastly on the way back to 'Uptown'  
New Orleans, we will stop at one of the old Public  
Markets - St. Roch for refreshments.

We will have our **opening reception** Thursday  
evening at St. Alphonsus, one of those Roman  
Catholic Churches that were located in the  
neighborhood called The Irish Channel. Notre  
Dame de Bon Secours was damaged by a hurricane  
in the 1920s and had to be destroyed. St. Mary's  
Assumption (across the street from St. Alphonsus)  
is still an active Catholic Church, but St. Alphonsus  
was deconsecrated and is used as a museum and  
center for cultural functions.

On Friday, our **paper sessions** will be held at  
Tulane University. We will stay at Tulane University  
all day in the **Awards Ceremony and Banquet**  
will be held in the same area as the paper sessions.

Saturday will be the **all-day bus tour** to at least  
three plantations along the Mississippi River - one  
on the east bank and the others on the west bank  
of the river.

More details to follow!



# Material Culture

The Journal of the International Society  
for Landscape, Place, & Material Culture

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The topics covered by *Material Culture* include all aspects of the study of material items from any world regional focus. These include: the role of products and commodities in the global economy, the cultural patterns that explain distribution and diffusion; exploration of cultural patterns in performing and visual arts; understanding tradition and innovation among individuals and the societies creating them; the meaning and importance of past and contemporary objects to their makers and users; attempts at restoring and maintaining folk and popular culture landscape elements; and the importance of understanding the relationships of material culture in the contemporary landscape. We welcome manuscripts from individuals interested in these subjects and encourage interested authors to discuss ideas with the Editor.

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**Submission Guidelines:** <http://www.pioneeramerica.org/materialculturecurrent.html>

# A message from CGSG Chairs, Past and Present...



Dr. Chris Post, CGSG Chair 2013-2015, Dr. Weronika Kusek, CGSG Chair 2015-2017; Dr. Beth Schlemper, CGSG Chair 2011-2013

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# *Place and Culture*

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP  
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