

Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG) Academic Year 2014-2015 Annual Report

1) Mission Statement

The Animal Geography Specialty Group strives to enhance geographic research and scholarship on matters relating to human-animal studies by: (a) encouraging the exchange of ideas among geographers studying biological, cultural, ecological, economic, political, and technical aspects of the myriad ways humans co-exist with other animal species, (b) promoting research in these areas, (c) facilitating collaboration between existing AAG specialty groups and committees to promote common interests and develop intra-disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects. The overall aim of AnGSG is to support discussion of human-animal issues by geographers as a legitimate and active part of the discipline.

2) Dues Information

Our annual dues are \$5.00 for faculty and \$1.00 for students.

3) Chair/ Board of Directors / Officers Listing / Newsletter Editor / etc.

Our 8-member executive committee up through the 2015 AAG meeting:

Chair: Julie Urbanik

Secretary/Treasurer: Monica Ogra

Communications Officer: Sharon W. Adams

General Board Members: Harvey Neo, Mona Seymour, and Stella Cappoccia

Graduate Student Officers: Anita Hagy Ferguson and Matthew Rosenblum

Our 8-member executive committee following the 2015 AAG meeting:

Chair: Mona Seymour

Secretary/Treasurer: Jody Emel

Communications Officer: Sharon W. Adams

General Board Members: Harvey Neo, Monica Ogra, and Suzi Wiseman

Graduate Student Officers: Anita Hagy Ferguson and Angie Parker

4) Accomplishments

AnGSG sponsored 18 sessions at the 2015 AAG, 10 more than in 2014.

Member Connie Johnston was a finalist for the AAG's J. Warren Nystrom Award with her paper "The political science of farm animal welfare in the US and EU."

Members published two edited books in the AY (Rosemary Collard and Katie Gillespie, *Critical Animal Geographies* and Jody Emel and Harvey Neo, *The Political Ecology of Meat*).

Member Julie Urbanik received a grant from the Missouri Humanities Council to develop a storymap about the cultural animal landscape of Kansas City.

Future Plans and Directions

A key goal is to do outreach to involve more members in group governance; most of our executive board positions will be open for the 2016 elections.

We plan to continue maintaining and improving our website, online bibliography, and mentors program. We plan to continue providing support for and communication about animal geography-related activity at the upcoming AAG conference.

Business Meeting at the AAG Annual Meeting

Nine people attended the meeting (one of those via phone).

Major decisions included the following.

Leadership: The Chair (Mona Seymour, 3 year term); Secretary-Treasurer (Jody Emel, 1 year term); two General Board Members (Monica Ogra, 1 year term and Suzi Wiseman, at least 1 year term); and a Graduate Student Officer (Angie Parker, 1 year term) were all newly appointed. One General Board Member (Harvey Neo, at least 1 year term), one Graduate Student Officer (Anita Hagy Ferguson), and the Communications Officer (Shari Wilcox) remained in service.

Leadership terms and eligibility: We made the decisions to begin staggering the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer positions and to begin staggering the General Board Member positions, starting with the 2016 elections. We made the decision to open General Board Member positions to graduate students; this change was made to the bylaws.

Bibliography: We discussed the medium of our group's bibliography of animal geography-related work, deciding to use Zotero as our primary medium but retain our Refworks bibliography.

Student Paper Awards

Lauren van Patter of University of Guelph won our annual Graduate Student Paper Competition (\$200) with her paper "Of place or of people: exploring the spatial dimensions of human-feral cat relations in southern Ontario."

Newsletter information

We published the 6th edition of our annual newsletter *Animal Geography News*. The newsletter advises members of new publications of interest, notes accomplishments of group members, and provides a list of AnGSG-sponsored and -related events at the upcoming AAG meeting. It also contains communications from the Chair about specialty group matters.

2016 Annual Meeting Plans for San Francisco

Our major plans for the 2016 AAG conference include organizing a plenary session; organizing a field trip, perhaps around urban livestock keeping; and planning a social for group members.

5) Membership and Participation

We currently have 153 specialty group members, as listed on the community portion of the AAG website.

Members and nonmembers frequently participate in the group using our GoogleGroups email listserv; approximately 120 people are on this list.

6) Financial Report

As of August 31, 2015 AnGSG has \$995.47 in its account. Dues and a donation were credited to the account; website hosting fees and the paper award were debited.

8/31/2014	Balance forward			\$ 1,051.43
9/29/14	Urbanik - reimb. for website hostin		(120.00)	931.43
9/30/14	Dues collected for Sept 2014	29.00		960.43
10/28/14	Ogra - Donation	100.00		1,060.43
10/31/14	Dues collected for Oct 2014	86.00		1,146.43
11/30/14	Dues collected for Nov 2014	61.00		1,207.43
12/31/14	Dues collected for Dec 2014	12.00		1,219.43
1/31/15	Dues collected for Jan. 2015	22.00		1,241.43
2/28/15	Dues collected for Feb. 2015	27.00		1,268.43
3/3/15	Dues collected for March 2015	18.00		1,286.43
4/14/15	Van Patter - Graduate Paper Award		(200.00)	1,086.43
4/30/15	Dues collected for April 2015	23.00		1,109.43
5/31/15	Dues collected for May 2015	5.00		1,114.43
6/30/15	Dues Collected for June 2015	6.00		1,120.43
7/7/15	Wilcox -Website annual fee		(145.96)	974.47
7/31/15	Dues Collected for July 2015	-		974.47
8/31/15	Dues Collected for Aug 2015	21.00		995.47
8/31/15	Balance			\$ 995.47