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TGRG Page

Transport Geography Research Group (TGRG) committee

The committee held a business meeting in Plymouth on 30th November 2009. The Postgraduate Rep position on the committee left vacant following the AGM in August 2009 has since been filled by co-opting Angela Curl (Aberdeen), who plans to revitalise PGR activity and networking for postgraduates researching transport.

TGRG Committee Member elected to lead a new International Research Commission

Professor Richard Knowles (Professor of Transport Geography, Salford) has been elected President of the International Geographical Union's (IGU) Commission on Transport and Geography. This research Commission was established by the Executive Board of the International Geographical Union at its meeting in France in early October 2009 and has 13 members, one from each of the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa, Poland, Chile, Bangladesh, Israel and Ghana. The IGU is the worldwide grouping of national University Geographical Research Associations including the UK's Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) (RGS-IBG). Research agendas to be addressed include:

- Urban transport and mobilities.
- Governance, management and organization of transport systems.
- Transport and information technologies.
- Global and national freight transport systems.
- Transport investment and economic development.
- Issues of transport sustainability and safety.
- Epistemological dimensions.

Professor Jon Shaw's inaugural lecture

TGRG stalwart, Professor Jon Shaw, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Transport at the University of Plymouth, gave his inaugural professorial lecture to a packed lecture theatre on Friday 30th November 2009. He gave an entertaining lecture tracing his career alongside some transport policy milestones in the UK, and highlighted interesting future directions for transport geography.

Universities Transport Studies Group 42nd Annual Conference 2010

TGRG members were in evidence at the 42nd Annual Conference of UTSG, 5th-7th January 2010. This year's conference was hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Transport at the University of Plymouth. Despite the travel chaos that was caused by the early January weather conditions, the conference was very well attended with about 100 delegates. A feature of the UTSG conference is the encouragement that is offered to post-graduate students. One mechanism for this is the annual Smeed prize for the best postgraduate paper at the conference. In addition to the winner, the papers which caught the judges' eyes in various ways were: Simon Heslop's paper (Newcastle) on the 'Categorisation of drivers in relation to experience of and coping with boredom'; Kate Pangbourne's paper (Aberdeen) describing 'Some implications of the changing geography of Scottish governance for effective transport strategy and governance theory'; and Stuart Meek's paper (Loughborough) titled 'Current vehicle mileage travelled effects of bus-based park and ride and potential improvements'. The winner was Steven Melia of the University of the West of England for his paper 'Potential for car-free developments in the UK'. Next year's UTSG conference will be held in Milton Keynes, hosted by the Open University.

RGS-IBG Conference 2010, London 1st – 3rd September 2010

TGRG is on track for another good year at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference. Ashgate Publishing is sponsoring the annual Hoyle Lecture in Transport Geography from 2010, which will have a greater profile in the Conference Programme than in previous years. Professor David Banister (Oxford) is the speaker for 2010, having received the Hay Award in 2009. Calls for papers were sent out for three sessions: 'Transport and Climate Change', convened by Lee Chapman (Birmingham) and Tim Ryley (Loughborough); 'Innovation in Transport and Tourism' Research, convened by Stephen Page (London Metropolitan) and Richard Knowles (Salford); and 'Transport During and After the Recession' convened by Iain Docherty (Glasgow). There will also be a session for postgraduates whose work does not fall within the themed sessions, convened by Angela Curl and Kate Pangbourne (both Aberdeen).

Postgraduate prize

Postgraduate prize: the Transport Geography Research Group has an annual prize (a certificate and a small cash prize) for the best postgraduate presentation in any of the TGRG-sponsored sessions at the RGS-IBG 2010 Conference.

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