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# TGRG page

## Transport Geography Research Group (TGRG) AGM and committee

The TGRG AGM was held on 1st September 2010 during the RGS-IBG Annual Conference. This was well-attended, and three new members were welcomed onto the committee: Dr. Karen Lucas (Transport Studies Unit, University of Oxford), Dr. Tim Ryley (University of Loughborough) and Dr. Lisa Davison (University of Loughborough). The latter has also taken on the role of Treasurer, following the retirement of Professor Brian Graham earlier in the year.

## Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Annual Conference 2010

TGRG made its presence felt at the annual conference held at the RGS headquarters in London. TGRG are very pleased to have obtained sponsorship from Ashgate Publishing for the annual Hoyle Lecture. This year's lecture was given by Professor David Banister (Transport Studies Unit, University of Oxford), entitled Distance, Speed and Time: The Fundamentals of Transport Geography. This high-profile lecture attracted a large audience, and Professor Banister's erudite and entertaining presentation was followed by a lively discussion.

TGRG convened two major themed sessions resulting in an intensive but thought-provoking time at the conference for those interested in transport and mobility. Wednesday's theme of Innovations in Transport and Tourism Research, convened by Professors Richard Knowles (Salford) and Stephen Page (London Metropolitan) attracted a wide range of high quality papers from across Europe, but also Brazil, Bangladesh and New Zealand, highlighting the diversity and global relevance of on-going work in this highly topical area. Contributions ranged from considering the impacts on tourism of climate change (and vice versa) as well as the attitudes of tourists towards their lifestyle and leisure travel habits, focusing on both domestic travel and longer haul destinations such as New Zealand, as well as on the emerging slow travel market. Modes covered ranged from the potential for electric three-wheeled transport for tourists in Bangladesh, cycle tourism in Europe and railway heritage tourism in South America. Specialised approaches to understanding and planning for tourism transport impacts were also covered, such as Life Cycle Assessment and scenario planning.

Thursday was dominated by a broader focus on Climate Change and Transport, organised by TGRG in association with IGU Transport and Geography, and convened by Drs. Lee Chapman (University of Birmingham) and Tim Ryley (Loughborough University). The range of papers and presenters including postgraduate students, early career researchers and those at more established stage of their careers, and again a breadth of material and approaches was demonstrated, from Futures and Scenario approaches and building/maintaining resilient networks to considering the UK transport emissions budget for personal transport, understanding the social and distributional impacts of policy options for mitigating the climate change impacts of personal transport, communicating to individuals about their $CO^2$ emissions and whether awareness of the issues affects travel behaviour. Specific modes were also addressed from whether active travel can make a real contribution to this policy agenda to whether aircraft size can make a difference on short-haul routes and how aviation will be impacted by climate change. Whilst most papers were UK focused, there were also valuable contributions on urban transport planning in developing cities, and in China.

TGRG also held a session specifically for Postgraduate students working on areas that don't fit the themed sessions, convened by Angela Curl and Dr. Kate Pangbourne (both University of Aberdeen). Five papers were given by students at various stages in their studies, providing them with a useful opportunity to gain presentation skills and feedback from a wider and experienced audience on their research. The diverse papers considered urban design and walkability, the measuring the influence of polycentric urban form on car commuting, objective and subjective perceptions of accessibility, the impact of free travel for the over 1960s and the relationship of every-day travel, spatial representation and social interactions in the production of mobility.

Postgraduate students were also invited to enter the new TGRG Post-graduate Prize for the best paper given in a TGRG sponsored conference session. As this was the first year, only two entries were received. Both were of a high quality and a certificate and the prize of a book from the Ashgate Publishing transport range were awarded to Duncan A. Smith (Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, University College, London).

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