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TGRG page ☆

1. Annual report

The TGRG enjoyed a successful and productive 2000 in which, despite largely static membership levels, much was achieved to promote both the present and future profile of the Group. The year began with the Annual Conference of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. The TGRG was involved in two sessions: alongside the traditional 'TGRG day', a half-day session was arranged with the Planning and Environment Research Group (PERG). The sessions allowed a range of geographers to present original research findings and exchange policy-relevant ideas on numerous related issues under two main themes, *Transport, internationalisation and globalisation* and *Planning for sustainable and integrated transport systems in the new millenium*. Both resulted in considered assessments of pressing transport issues, and five of the papers from the joint TGRG/PERG session were brought together in a special edition of *Transport Policy* (Volume 7).

Further publishing in 2000 under the TGRG banner took the form of two special transport-related issues of the 'This Changing World' section of *Geography* (Volume 85), which appeared in January and July. The 10 papers, edited by José Smith (University of Salford), provided a comprehensive overview and commentary on the myriad issues arising from the UK Government's 1998 White Paper, *A New Deal for Transport*.

The biennial TGRG Postgraduate Seminar was held at the RGS-IBG building in London on 13 September. The day's proceedings were divided into two halves. The morning session was devoted to papers from four postgraduates at varying stages in their postgraduate careers. The afternoon provided time for a round table discussion of *Transport 2010: The 10-Year Plan*, the document published by the UK government to outline its committed and provisional expenditure plans for transport over the coming decade. The event was regarded a success by all those in attendance and the postgraduates, who were grateful for the chance to meet and learn from others undertaking PhDs, benefited particularly. Providing such support and encouragement for transport geography postgraduates is essential to their career development and the TGRG intends to repeat this event in 2002.

The TGRG has also, in the year 2000, laid the foundations for a number of important future developments. First, Brian Graham (TGRG Chair) and Richard Knowles have negotiated the launch of a major new book series with Ashgate Publishing. The inaugural monograph was published in December 2000 and five more books in the *Transport and Mobility Series* are to be published in the coming three years. Second, six members of the TGRG are travelling to New York in March 2001 to deliver papers at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in a session jointly convened with their Transportation Specialty Group. This session demonstrates the continued commitment of both the TGRG and the TSG to mutual trans-Atlantic co-operation and collaboration.

Third, the TGRG's Chair, Brian Graham, began organising an RGS-IBG Environment and Society forum entitled *Policy Directions in UK Air Transport: The Next 10 Years* which will run in 2001. As convenor of this forum, the TGRG should attract a considerable amount of welcome publicity. Fourth, TGRG Committee Members instigated a joint TGRG/UTSG conference to discuss the topic *Prospects for Transport in the New Parliament in* September 2001. It is expected that the conference will be attended by a significant number of transport academics, practitioners and policy makers, and should attract an influential keynote speaker. An edited book containing papers presented at the conference will be published in early 2002 as part of the Transport and Mobility Series. Finally, the Committee established closer links with transport geographers in Western Europe and Canada which will be further developed in the coming months. This important breakthrough will enable transport geographers in the UK to explore exciting research possibilities with a wider range of colleagues than recently has been the case. The TGRG fully intends to build upon the foundations laid in 2000 to consolidate its position as a key focus for transportation research in the UK and beyond.

☆ Transport Geography Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers).

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2. Call for papers

The TGRG's all-day session at the 2002 RGS-IBG Annual Conference in Belfast (2–6 January) will address the theme *Transport: dividing communities?* Papers might address transport-related issues of social exclusion and their causes and impacts, (e.g., car dependence, privatisation and deregulation of transport provision, the efficacy of government policies designed to promote integration) or, at the wider level, arrangements for transport provision in devolutionary settings (a potentially 'divisive' example is Scottish railways in the UK). We hope the session will attract a broad range of contributions from a variety of international researchers and abstracts should be sent to Brian Graham (bj.graham@ulst.ac.uk) or Jon Shaw (j.shaw@abdn.ac.uk), the session convenors, before 30 July.

The joint TGRG/UTSG conference on *Prospects for Transport in the Next Parliament* will, as noted above, be held in London on Wednesday 20 September. Abstracts for this conference, dealing with transport-related policy issues and approaches over a range of timescales, should be sent to Iain Docherty (i.docherty@socsci.gla.ac.uk), also before 30 July.

3. Other notices

TGRG member George Behrend's new book, Pullman and the Orient Expresses, is now on sale. Details can be obtained from the author (georgebehrend@aol.com).

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