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Second Postgraduate Seminar

The impressive surroundings of the Council Room at the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington Gore, London, were the setting for the second postgraduate seminar in Transport Geography on 18 September 1996. The seminar aimed to give postgraduates the opportunity to present their research findings in an informal atmosphere and to exchange views on the problems of undertaking research in transport geography.

Since there was no overall theme for the day, papers were presented on a wide range of topics. Paul Dandy from the Transportation Research Unit of Napier University presented his initial findings from a study of 'Urban density and travel to work in Edinburgh'. Developing the theme of urban congestion, Isobel Daniels of the Severnside Planning Unit and the University of the West of England, used a number of case studies to introduce her work on 'Company staff travel plans'. Chris Higgins (Department of Geography, University of Salford) spoke on the very topical subject of 'Airline liberalization and European regional airports'. Karen Lucas (Environmental Sciences School, Greenwich University) and Ian Skinner (Transport Studies Unit, University of Central London) presented a joint paper on 'Social climate change and sustainable transport', with particular reference to London's East Thames Corridor.

Reflecting the diversity of approaches used in transport geography, two papers emphasized the use of analytical techniques. Melanie Rudolph of the Department of Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering, Loughborough University, introduced a number of analytical tools, including GIS, in her paper on 'Methodology for the analysis of freight transport networks'. Stated preference methods were discussed by Kang Soo Kim (Institute of Transport Studies, University of Leeds) in his paper on 'Ranking data and choice data in transportation modelling'.

The diversity of the day was further enhanced by presentations from two overseas students. Luciano Cau, currently studying in the Department of Geography in the University of Southampton, used examples from Italy, his home country, to illustrate his findings on 'Transport and tourism on the waterfront'. Meleckidzedeck Khayesi (Department of Geography, Kenyatta University, but currently visiting the Department of Applied Geography, University of Trier, Germany) concluded the formal presentations with his paper on 'Road traffic accidents in Kenya: state of research and preliminary findings'.

Throughout the day, discussion focused on common research problems such as data availability and methodological approaches. It is hoped that many of the comments will assist participants in the preparation of papers for publication. It is also intended to publish the revised papers from the seminar as monograph in the TGRG series. Having convened the seminar, Dr Brian Turton (Department of Geography, Keele University) has undertaken to edit the papers prior to publication. The TGRG is very grateful for all the effort expended by Dr Turton, which has ensured a second, highly successful, seminar. The Group would also like to acknowledge the financial support received for the seminar from the Royal Geographical Society, which makes a contribution towards participants expenses and the costs of publishing the edited papers.

Third Postgraduate Seminar

The TGRG is organising a third seminar for students undertaking research in Transport Geography. The seminar will be held at the RGS-IBG Headquarters, 1 Kensington Gore, London, on Wednesday 17 September 1997. There will be no overall transport theme for the day, since papers are welcome from all postgraduate researchers working in transport and related fields. It is hoped that papers will include important methodological as well as contextual topics. Overall, the emphasis will be on an informal atmosphere in which ideas can be tested, the aim being to provide preparation for more formal presentations. The intention is to publish the seminar papers as Working Papers. Financial assistance with travel costs should also be available.

For further details, please contact Dr Brian Turton, Department of Geography, Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire, ST5 5BG, UK. Tel: 01782 583160/583168; Fax: 01782 584144. E-mail: gea49@cc.keele.ac.uk

Publication news

Transport Geography Research: Postgraduate Working Papers No 1 (1996). Edited by Dr Turton and available from him at a cost of £3 (UK), £4 (overseas). Prices include packing and postage.

Cityports, Coastal Zones and Regional Development; International Perspectives on Planning and Management (1996), Wiley, ISBN 0 471 962 775. This book, which has been edited by Dr Brian Hoyle (University of Southampton), is the result of a joint TGRG and Association of Italian Geographers symposium held in Venice. It is dedicated to the memory of Professor Giuseppe Rizzo, University of Verona, Italy.

Transport Geography Research Paper Prize

Paul Dandy, TRansport Research Unit, Napier University is the winner of the first TGRG Research Paper prize in Transport Geography. Many congratulations!

José Smith
TGRG Chairman

[1]TGRG: Transport Geography Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers.