



# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SPECIALTY GROUP NEWSLETTER

A Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers  
February 2009

George M. Pomeroy and  
Sudhir K. Thakur, Editors

## Letter from the Chair

Christian Tettey

I have fled the freezing temperatures of the North American winter for the 'extended summer' of a West African winter. So instead of watching people dust snow off their windshields, I see taxi drivers wiping dust off their windshields! CNN does allow me to witness what is happening however. I suggest that for those who plan to attend the AAG Annual Meeting this March, take refuge from the bitter temperatures with thoughts of a warm Las Vegas.

This year's specialty group activities at the annual meeting are substantial - a book launch, numerous sessions, many fine papers, a business meeting, a specialty group sponsored field trip, and plenty of networking. Given that planning is an applied exercise incorporating ideas from other fields ('theory in planning'), we find a number of co-sponsored sessions and a healthy dose of collaboration. Very good! Let us continue to foster such sharing of knowledge.

I wish everyone all the best in 2009 and look forward to seeing many of you in Las Vegas later this spring.

Sincerely,  
Christian Tettey  
Chair, Regional Development and Planning  
Specialty Group

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## New feature to the Newsletter: Organizational Profiles!

In addition to profiling specialty group individual members, the newsletter will now feature one or two planning related organizations with each newsletter. Turn to page 7 in this issue of the newsletter to find out more about CICADIT at the University of Bucharest!

## Member Profile: *Chris DE Sousa*



*Chris DE Sousa, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee looks on during the a session of the U.S. EPA's Brownfields Conference*

### *1. Name, Position, Affiliation and Research Interests.*

Christopher A. DE Sousa, M.SC.PL., PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Geography,  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee;

Faculty Member: Urban Studies Program, UW-Milwaukee;

Founding Co-Director Brownfields Research Consortium, UW-Milwaukee

#### Research Interests:

- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Sustainability Reporting
- Urban Environmental Management
- Resource Conservation
- Green Building Development
- Inner-city Revitalization

### *2. Tell us something additional about your work (teaching or research activities), your program / department or even your institution more generally.*

My primary research activities focus on various aspects of brownfield redevelopment in the United States and Canada. I am currently working on two research projects: (1) Best management practices and benefits of sustainable redevelopment of brownfield sites, with researchers from UI-Chicago and UI-Urbana-Champaign, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfield

Training, Research and Technical Assistance Grant Program; (2) Residential brownfields development, sprawl, and sustainability: A demand side perspective, funded by UW-Milwaukee's Graduate School. While my Ph. D. research and work since has examined, in parts, how brownfields can be used to achieve sustainability (i.e., greenspace, housing, economic development), my book (*Brownfields Redevelopment and the Quest for Sustainability*) and current EPA research project have given me an opportunity to address the issue in a more holistic manner.

In terms of teaching, 2008 was also a busy year. Highlights include turning my senior environmental studies class into a more rigorous environmental planning and management course, teaching Planning Theory at UW-M's Planning School for the first time, and most fun of all, taking a group of twenty graduate and undergraduate students to Vancouver for a Sustainable Cities class.

My Department is doing very well and we have added several excellent faculty. UW-Milwaukee is also chugging along, although the state's budget has everyone worried.

### *3. What year did you first join the AAG? What year did you first join the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group?*

I believe it was 1997 as a student member. I believe it was 2004.

### *4. What planning projects / initiatives / examples that you have studied, visited, or worked on are your favorites? That is which one or which several have you been most impressed by? Why?*

*Continued on next page*

## Member Profile: *Chris DE Sousa*

*(Continued from p. 2)*

Every project I've studied has something special about it in terms of design, planning, and impact on the community. Sometimes I joke that I have the equivalent of a photo album filled with case studies for every type of brownfields project. I am always impressed by the determination of developers, planners, community members, and other stakeholders in getting these projects done. My favorite projects are those that address the environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainability. Thus far, projects in the False Creek area of Vancouver, Chicago's Center for Green Technology, and the brownfields to greenspace work in Toronto, Minneapolis, and Pittsburgh are my favorites; as well as the Menomonee Valley in Milwaukee.

In terms of satisfying research projects, each one has contributed to my understanding/knowledge. I particularly enjoyed a project I did a few years back funded by the USDA Forest Services in which I interviewed those using or residing near brownfield to park projects about the impact these projects had on quality of life. I was overwhelmed by how happy people were with the new spaces and the pride these re-instilled in their community. People 'gladly' completed the survey because as many told me, "they just loved the place."

*5. What bit of advice would you give to graduate students (masters or Ph.D.) studying regional development and planning?*

Try to be helpful and make sure your criticism is constructive. I believe that those of us who are interested in development and planning want to help develop places that please people and contribute to their quality of life. Stakeholders in

the so-called 'real world' are desperate for impartial academic research that can help them better understand whether planning methods, policies, and programs are working. Unfortunately, we academics often devote too much time to a particular theoretical perspective or to critiquing the research of other academics, as opposed to addressing problems and providing guidance to help deal with them. I am most inspired and rewarded when working on a research project that contributes to both the scholarly literature and policy and practice.

*6. Given your current position, what do you wish you have known when you started out?*

That many academics do not like to "play outside". That is, many are happy in the university publishing, teaching their classes, and interacting with their peers. Merit and tenure policies also promote this. Locally-based and applied research has many benefits and should be encouraged somehow. Universities are respected intellectual powerhouses, but many disciplines have not done enough to harness that power to improve the condition of the communities in which they are located. To do this, academics have to become members of a much larger team that is engaged in regional development and planning activity, even though some don't always see academics as useful members of that team. Students also appreciate the real-world knowledge this brings to the classroom.

*7. What geography, development, or planning books would you most recommend?*

Work by Timothy Beatley, William Rees, Jane Jacobs, Michael Hough, Rutherford Platt, Holly White, Reid Ewing, Robert Burchell and many others. I also enjoy the work of many brownfield authors as well (Wernstedt, Meyer, Leigh, Simons, Greenberg, Howland).

## Member Profile: *Chris DE Sousa*

*(Continued from p. 3)*

*8. What other books (of any type, fiction or non-fiction; professional / non-professional) would you recommend or did you most enjoy? Or, What title have you read most recently? Explain.*

Most recently I've been enjoying some of the Readers in the Routledge Urban Readers series. I started reading one of them to prepare a class then found myself just reading on and ordering a few more. Even though I've read much of the material before as a student, it is interesting to re-read things at a later stage in your career.

*9. What areas of research in development and planning do you see as most needing attention?*

If I could split myself into many pieces and do more research, I would look at ways to overcome the barriers to green building / infrastructure / development etcetera. More work also needs to be done to come up with practical and effective planning methods for addressing environmental and social injustice.

*11. Please list some of your career highlights.*

2008 member of a research team awarded a US Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfields Training, Research and Technical Assistance Grant.

2008 published book entitled Brownfields Redevelopment and the Quest for Sustainability. (London: Elsevier Science/Emerald Group Publishing, Current Issues in Urban and Regional Studies Series, Volume 4).

2006 Tenure to Associate Professor: Department of Geography, UW-Milwaukee

2006 Invited as a Visiting Scholar, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

2004 Awarded a National Academies: HUD Urban Scholars Postdoctoral Fellowship

2003 Delivered the Keynote Address at the fourth annual Canadian Brownfields conference on organized by The Canadian Urban Institute.

2003. Selected to participate in a 3-day Policy Expert in Residence program at Wilfred Laurier University.

2002 Founding Co-Director: Brownfields Research Consortium, UW-Milwaukee,

2001 Center Scientist: Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, UW-Milwaukee to coordinate the Menomonee Valley Benchmarking Initiative.

2000 hired as an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

1998 awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship.

1997 worked as a Planning and Research Analyst for the Metro Toronto Planning Department on brownfield inventories.

1996 awarded a Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Academic Excellence

1996 worked as a Research Assistant at the Waterfront Regeneration Trust in Ontario on brownfield issues.



## Member Profile: *Chandana Mitra*



Chandana Mitra,  
University of Georgia

### *1. Name, Position, Affiliation and Research Interests.*

Chandana Mitra, Graduate research student (ABD) working on a PhD degree at University of Georgia in Athens, GA. My research interests are urban climate, growth dynamics in developing countries, urban growth models, mesoscale weather processes and modeling, climate change, satellite remote sensing and GIS.

### *2. Tell us something additional about your work (teaching or research activities), your program / department or even your institution more generally.*

My dissertation "The dynamics of urban growth in Kolkata, India and potential impacts on pre-monsoon precipitation," directed by Dr. Marshall Shepherd, investigates trends and spatial extent of urban land cover growth in Kolkata over a 100 to 300 year period; characterizes its future growth pattern; and determines its influence on the regional precipitation climatology. The linkage of an urban growth modeling study coupled with an atmosphere-land model is a unique application with far reaching implications in parts of the developing world like Asia. This work is funded by the NASA Precipitation Measurement Missions program and is directly related to several key issues discussed in the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.

### *3. What year did you first join the AAG? What year did you first join the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group?*

I have been a member of the AAG since 2005. I became a member of RDPSG at the same time.

### *4. What planning projects / initiatives / examples that you have studied, visited, or worked on are your favorites? That is which one or which several have you been most impressed by? Why?*

Two projects come to my mind as I answer this question. One project was on the arsenic problem in West Bengal, India and the other was on the food colors used in edibles. I was involved in these projects back in India when I worked for an NGO in India, named Centre for Sustainable Living. Work on the arsenic poisoning issue was very intriguing. The environmental health disaster related to arsenic poisoning through drinking water were affecting millions of people in West Bengal and Bangladesh. The project was to bring awareness and we collaborated with organizations to come up with simple, less expensive methods to lessen arsenic in drinking water.

The project on food colors was also thought provoking. We visited different schools in the city to make the kids aware of the food colors used in food they consume. We did simple experiments with sulfuric acid to test if they had carcinogenic elements in different Indian spices, mostly turmeric powder. This awareness program became very popular amongst students and a few articles on these issues were published in popular daily newspapers.

### *5. What bit of advice would you give to graduate students (master's or Ph.D.) studying regional development and planning?*

I would like to quote what Dr. Vandana Wadhwa has said in her profile in the previous newsletter answering this question. All the research done in regional



## Member Profile: *Chandana Mitra*

*(Continued from p. 5)*

areas too, has one focus in common i.e. to have a better and healthy future for every human living on earth.

Networking and letting people know about your research, within and outside your field, is also very important. Going to conferences, doing presentations and getting insights and suggestions from experienced seniors always help to improve on your work.

*6. Given your current position, what do you wish you have known when you started out?*

I realized that the field of geography was interdisciplinary and so vast, after I came to pursue my PhD in the US. So keeping oneself updated by reading books and published papers is very helpful in increasing knowledge and exploring new research ideas.

*8. What geography, development, or planning books would you most recommend?*

*a) Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson – This book is all about DDT, dangers of pesticide usage and bird and fish killings.

*b) Chasing the Monsoon* by Alexander Frater – This is a travel book where the author follows the path of monsoon in it's northwardly journey, bringing relief to the parched Indian soil.

They are really nice reads. There are so many other books that cannot be listed here.

*9. What other books (of any type, fiction or non-fiction; professional / non-professional) would you recommend or did you most enjoy? Or, what titles have you read most recently? Explain.*

Books I loved reading are *Jonathan Livingstone Seagull*

by Richard Bach, *The Second Lady* by Irving Wallace, *The Alchemist* by Paul Coelho, and Jeffrey Archer's *Twelve Red Herrings* and many others by different authors. The most recent book I have read is *The Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri.

*10. What areas of research in development and planning do you see as most needing attention?*

According to me the most crucial sector of research in development and planning is urban planning. With projection that about 80% of the people will start living in cities within the next 25 years or so, we should think and plan ahead. With the whole world thinking mostly of personal gains, it is very important that some of us think beyond, for the future generations to come. With so much growth pressure on cities, there will surely come a time when we will face a situation of no return. Urban environment, ground water level, communication, city planning, urban climate are some of the facets of research to be of utmost importance.

*11. Please list some of your career highlights.*

My career has been very satisfying and steady for me. I came to the US to pursue my PhD at a much later age. But I do not regret that as I was teaching in a high school back in India after I finished my masters. I was very passionate about teaching and dealing with teenage boys was a challenge for me. My love for geography started way back in my school days when my geography teacher made learning so interesting. When I taught the boys at my school, I always wanted to be their inspiration. It gave me immense pleasure when students came by later in their career to tell me that they were pursuing careers in geography or economics. That was my reward to be respected and adored by students.

The transition from teaching being a pleasure, to learning being a pleasure took place when I came here to pursue PhD. I realized there was so much to learn, so much to know. It was challenging in the beginning but gradually the rhythm caught on.

# Organizational Profile: *CICADIT*

*Editor's Note: I had the opportunity to engage Dr. Ioan Ianos of the University of Bucharest. Dr. Ianos, a geographer, has been studying regional development and planning for over 30 years in a variety of applied and academic settings. He also has a wealth of experience in the fields of geography and higher education more generally. The profile is drawn from my conversations and correspondence with him and his well qualified and highly motivated staff in a recent visit to Romania, as well as drawing upon the CICADIT website.*

## 1. What is CICADIT?

CICADIT is the Romanian acronym for the INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER OF ADVANCED RESEARCH ON TERRITORIAL DYNAMICS. Based at the University of Bucharest, CICADIT engages in high level research in the analysis of territorial (regional) dynamics. The center is ably directed by Prof. Dr. Ioan Ianos, of the Faculty of Geography.

## 2. Tell us something bit more about the center's research activities?

The CICADIT research activity falls into the priorities set up by the National Strategy of research, development and innovation, with highlight on socio-economic research. This includes aspects of demography, migration, working resources, ethnic issues, electoral behavior, dynamics and territorial economic structures, land use, industrial restructuring, dynamics of the tertiary sector, urban and rural development, regional and local development, and the analysis of tourist activities. Also, there is research on environment diversity and quality, and on prognoses of long-term territorial development. As a research center, one of the main objectives has been to turn to good account the results got in fundamental and applied research.

## 3. What can you tell us about the staff at your research center?



**Ioan Ianos, CICADIT Director, University of Bucharest, smiles during our visit to the castle ruins in Tirgoviste, once the capital of Romania.**

The center staff numbers 20, including 14 PhD researchers and other 6 PhD candidates (three of whom from Moldova, Iran and Egypt); it also supports the activities of some other PhD candidates abroad (4 in France, 2 in Germany, 1 in Italy).

## 4. What are some other partnerships you have nurtured?

Partnership and collaborative efforts are highly valued by CICADIT. We have multiannual partnerships with the Carta Laboratory of the University of Angers (with which we organize every year the international conferences „L'Initiative entrepreneuriale et développement regional”) and with the University of Postdam. The cooperation relationships have extended to research centers in some other universities abroad: University of Brest, Lusofona University of Lisabona, University of Klagenfurt, University of Tübingen, Shippensburg University, University of Nice, University of Lausanne.

## Organizational Profile: *CICADIT*

*(Continued from p. 7)*

*5. What planning projects / initiatives / examples that you have studied, visited, or worked on are your favorites? That is which one or which several have you been most impressed by? Why?*

I. The controllable production of discontinuities and the treatment of the thoroughly disadvantaged areas.

II. The role of spatial nanostructures in the dynamics of territorial systems.

*6. What are the leading regional planning issues in Romania at this time?*

*7. How might one contact you to find out more CICADIT and to potentially collaborate?*

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## ROSTER OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SPECIALTY GROUP OFFICERS, 2008–2009

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George Pomeroy and Sudhir K. Thakur

List-Serv Manager: Sya Buryn Kedzior

Web Page Editor: Chandana Mitra



## News From and About Members

Our specialty group is comprised of many accomplished researchers, excellent instructors, and productive practitioners. Here is a sampling of quality work many of our colleagues are engaged in.

*A sincere thank you to those who send in news items! Keep up the good work!*

### ASHOK K. DUTT, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

1. *Explorations in Applied Geography*, published in 2008 by Prentice Hall of India, has thirty chapters consisting of sections on L.R Singh's contribution to applied geography, environment, challenges of development, planning and its problems and planning and cultural geography. Most authors are from India but US based authors include Ashok K. Dutt, Meera Chaterjee, Ramesh Dhussa, Roger Menzies, Allen G. Noble, Dennis Tobin, EM Cotton, PP Karan, Frank J. Costa, Hiran Dutta, and David Dickason. Two Canadian authors are AK Chakravarti and Ramesh C. Tiwari. The book is highly recommended for libraries of USA and Canada. This 524 page book costs only \$15. *Patrika Sunday Magazine* of Allahabad of India dated Much 9, 2008 comments about the book;

It is a comprehensive and classic compendium on Applied Geography. It has certainly given a new direction to the geographical thinking and has opened up new vistas in interdisciplinary research. It will be profitably used by the geographers, social scientists, planners and policy makers as a reference book. Prentice-Hall of India (phi@phindia.com) deserves high accolade for the excellent quality of the publication at such a low price."

2. The book *City, Society and Planning* edited by B. Thakur, Pomeroy, Cusack and S. Thakur is now available in several American universities including Harvard, University of Chicago, University of Minnesota, UCLA, and Drake University. This book is sponsored by the Regional Development Planning Specialty Group of AAG and the University of Akron. It is a valuable reference book for different Universities of USA. This three volume 1800 page book can be obtained from Concept Publishing Company (publishing@conceptpub.com) for the price of \$250.

The book has been recently added to the collections of many notable libraries, including those at the University of Akron, UC – Irvine, UCLA, Drake Univ., Univ. of Chicago, Ball State University, Harvard Univ., the Univ. of Kentucky, Univ. of Michigan, Univ. of Minnesota, Duke, Univ., Columbia Univ., Univ. of Penn., the Univ. of Washington, and Ryerson Univ.

3. Dr. Animesh Halder, former Director of Planning, Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organization who has published several research papers on Calcutta slums with Dr. Ashok K. Dutt, lectured at the Ball State University (September, 19), Kansas State University (Sep. 16), Kent State University (Sep., 5) and The University of Akron on Sep., 26 on the topic: "Characteristics of Calcutta Slums, and Planning for their Improvement". His lecture tour ended on Sep. 26 and he is back in India.

## JAY GATRELL, INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Jay D. Gatrell was named Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at Indiana State University in July. Additionally, Jay was named editor of *Applied Geography* (published by Elsevier) and co-editor of

the book series *Geotechnologies & the Environment* (Springer-Verlag). He continues to serve as the book review editor of *The Professional Geographer*.

## SARAH WILLIAMS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Sarah Williams's maps that she made as part of the "Million Dollar Blocks" Project – run by her research lab – have been acquired by the very well known Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. The project was completed by the Spatial Information Design Lab at Columbia University. Information about the project may be found at:

<http://www.spatialinformationdesignlab.org/projects.php?id=16>

*Description from the Spatial Information Design Lab web site:*

The United States currently has more than 2 million people locked up in jails and prisons. A disproportionate number of them come from a very few neighborhoods in the country's biggest cities. In many places the concentration is so dense that states are spending in excess of a million

dollars a year to incarcerate the residents of single city blocks. When these people are released and reenter their communities, roughly forty percent do not stay more than three years before they are re-incarcerated.

Using rarely accessible data from the criminal justice system, the Spatial Information Design Lab and the Justice Mapping Center have created maps of these "million dollar blocks" and of the city-prison-city-prison migration flow for five of the nation's cities. The maps suggest that the criminal justice system has become the predominant government institution in these communities and that public investment in this system has resulted in significant costs to other elements of our civic infrastructure — education, housing, health, and family. Prisons and jails form the distant exostructure of many American cities today.



### Editor's Note:

*An especially impressive project and congratulations to Sarah and her colleagues on the MoMA acquisition.*

*Photo courtesy of Sarah Williams*

**SCOTT WOOTTEN**

With the New Year, I have become more engaged with Shenandoah Valley Sustainable Development (SVSD). SVSD is dedicated to build a new economic infrastructure to improve the quality of life in the Shenandoah Valley. Our purpose is to strengthen the local economy through diversity, social & environmental responsibility, entrepreneurial leadership and creative community investment.

SVSD is going to use my knowledge of sustainability to build Come Unity Events (CUEs), a Come Unity Place & Community Investment Enterprises (CIEs) supported by the Greenbuck, a regional complementary currency for the Shenandoah Valley.

CUEs will serve to target the market of consumers and attract local businesses, ngos, govs & citizens to unify and realize the underlying needs of our community. The Come Unity Portal will be a physical space for development of CUEs & CIEs, creativity, training, education and volunteerism. By partnering with other organizations, SVSD will serve as a network weaver and introduce complementary currency to participating entities.

CIEs will target communities in need, primarily the growing 4000+ unemployed working aged population. CIEs are required to break even, profits will return to the CIE fund. SVSD also seeks to cultivate creativity and leadership by providing self-help outlets (debt management, personal coaching, social services, health care, etc.) with Greenbucks in exchange for volunteerism, apprenticeships or internships.

**Your name here!!!**

The Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Newsletter is just that – a NEWS letter. So, it needs your news!

Please send in news of your publications, research activities, applied projects, grants, awards, conference announcements, and the like.



5/23/08

## ABOUT THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SPECIALTY GROUP

**1. Mission Statement:** To Encourage and promote planning policy studies, research, teaching, communications among members of the group; to publish and distribute newsletters twice a year featuring upcoming activities and other items of interest; and to organize special sessions and events at AAG meetings.

**2. Brief History of the Specialty Group:** The present Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group has its origins in an earlier Group chaired by Kenneth E. Corey. The Bylaws of the reorganized Group were adopted at the Annual Business Meeting in Washington, D.C. on April 23, 1982. The organizer and first Chair of the present Group was Ashok K. Dutt (1984–87), followed by Debnath Mookherjee (1987–89), John E. Benhart (1989–92), Yaser M. Najjar (1992–94), Frank J. Costa (1994–96), Mark M. Miller (1996–98), George M. Pomeroy (1998–2000), Brian J. Sommers (2000–01), Jayati Ghosh (2001–02), Christopher D. Cusack (2002–03), John Benhart, Jr. (2003–04), Samuel Thompson (2004–05), Sudhir K. Thakur (2005–06), Vandana Wadhwa (2006–07), Yehua Dennis Wei (2007–08), and Christian Tettey (2008–09).

### 3. Current Officers (2008–2009 Term)

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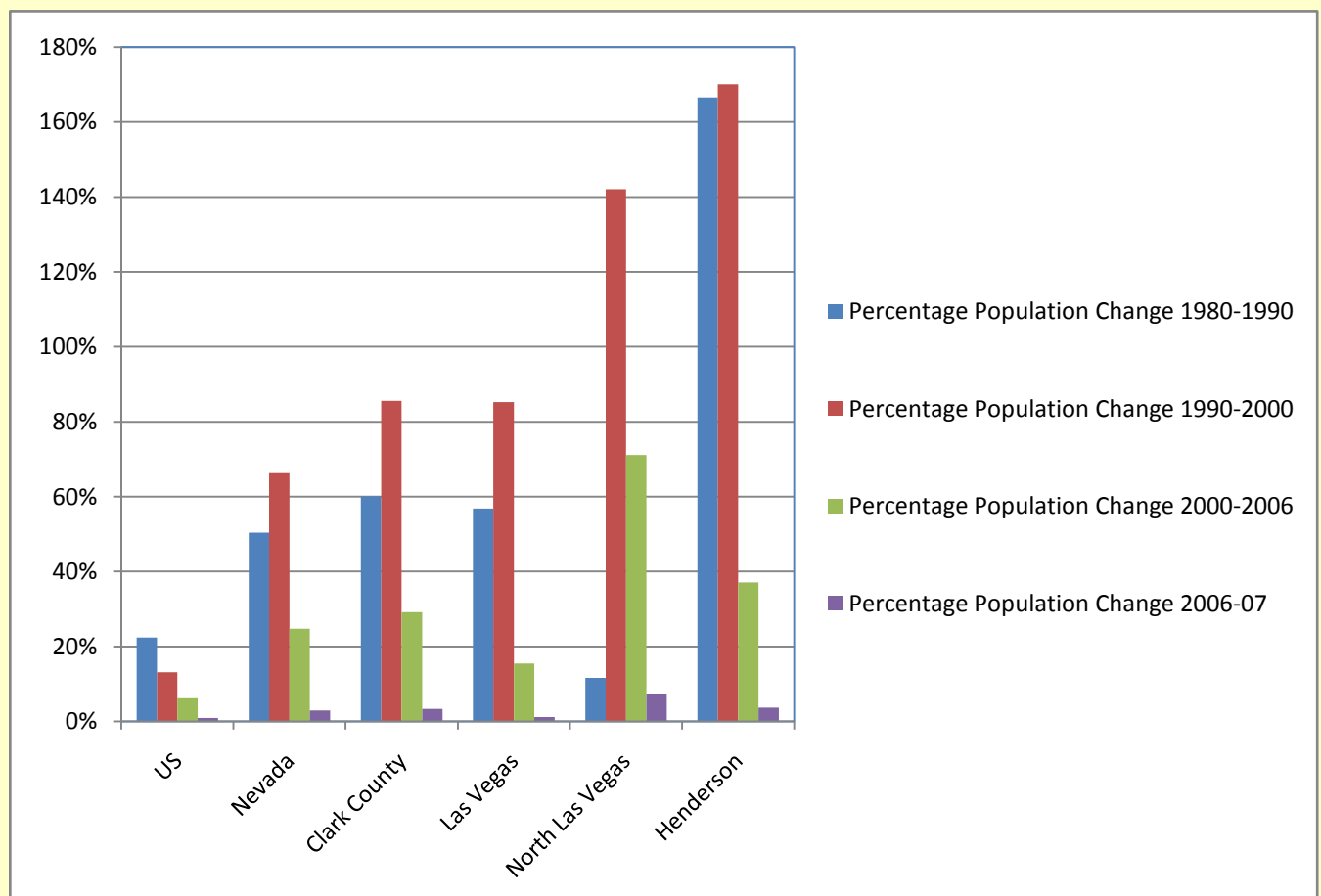


## VIVA LAS VEGAS! A *QUICK* LOOK AT GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING IN THE ENTERTAINMENT CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

*A quick examination of the numbers underscores the region's rapid growth . . .*

**Comparative Percentage Population Changes**

	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2006	2006-07	1980-2007
<b>US</b>	22%	13%	6%	1%	48%
<b>Nevada</b>	50%	66%	25%	3%	221%
<b>Clark County</b>	60%	86%	29%	3%	297%
<b>Las Vegas</b>	57%	85%	15%	1%	239%
<b>North Las Vegas</b>	12%	142%	71%	7%	396%
<b>Henderson</b>	167%	170%	37%	4%	924%



Here is some more demographic information to put Las Vegas in perspective.

Comparing Boston with Other Selected Central Cities									
Central Cities Only	Total Population July 1, 2005	Percentage Population Change, 2000 to 2005	White (2000)	Black (2000)	Asian (2000)	% 65+ (2000)	% w/ bachelors (2000)	% foreign born (2000)	Per Capita Income (1999)
Las Vegas	544,958	13.9	69.9	10.4	4.8	11.6	18.2	18.9	22,060
Boston	575,187	0.3	56.6	24.5	7.9	10.7	41.6	27.2	23,353
Philadelphia	1,448,394	-4.8	41.8	44.3	5.3	13.0	20.7	10.9	16,509
Baltimore	631,366	-3.1	30.9	64.4	1.9	12.1	23.3	6.1	16,978
Pittsburgh	2,386,074	-7.0	67.3	26.3	3.1	15.4	31.3	6.8	18,816
San Francisco	744,041	-4.4	53.0	6.7	31.8	14.8	50.4	36.3	34,556
Chicago	2,701,926	-2.2	36.5	35.3	4.9	10.2	29.3	21.8	20,175
Houston	1,941,430	8.9	52.7	24.7	5.0	8.5	26.6	27.8	20,101
Detroit	951,270	-9.2	10.0	83.1	1.1	10.6	11.3	4.5	14,717
Sources: Assorted Census Bureau data and documents accessed via <a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a>									



Comparing Metropolitan Las Vegas with Other Selected Metropolitan Areas									
<i>Metropolitan areas only</i>	<i>Total Population July 1, 2005</i>	<i>Percentage Population Change, 2000 to 2005</i>	<i>White (2000)</i>	<i>Black (2000)</i>	<i>Asian (2000)</i>	<i>% 65+ (2000)</i>	<i>% w/ bachelors (2000)</i>	<i>% foreign born (2000)</i>	<i>Per Capita Income (1999)</i>
Las Vegas MSA	1,710,551	24.3	81.3	9.1	5.5	10.7	17.3	18.0	29,601
Boston – Quincy PMSA	1,800,492	-0.7	79.9	12.9	5.6	12.3	35.2	15.6	40,326
Philadelphia PMSA	3,890,181	1.1	74.2	20.6	3.8	13.2	27.7	6.9	23,931
Baltimore PMSA	2,655,675	4	68	27.3	3.1	12.0	29.2	5.7	33,294
Pittsburgh MSA	2,386,074	-1.9	89.7	8.0	1.3	17.3	23.4	2.6	20,935
San Francisco PMSA	1,685,996	0.7	65.2	9.5	20.9	11.8	38.8	27.4	30,769
Chicago PMSA	7,882,729	3.8	75.1	18.5	4.9	10.8	29.0	16.1	24,938
Houston MSA	5,280,077	12	76.1	16.8	5.4	7.8	26.4	19.0	21,701
Detroit MSA	1,998,217	0.8	72.4	23.0	2.9	11.8	23.2	7.6	27,515
USA generally	296,410,000	5.3	75.1	12.3	3.6	12.4	27.0	12.5	21,587

Sources: Assorted Census Bureau data and documents accessed via [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LAS VEGAS

According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates for July 1, 2006 through July 1, 2007, an estimated:

- 530 people moved to Las Vegas every month
- 4930 people moved into Clark County, Nevada, every month
- By 2011, there will be an estimated 178,750 hotel rooms in the Las Vegas area
- Visitor volume increases by 204 persons for every new hotel room
- For every new hotel room, 7.1 jobs are created

Source: Velotta, Richard. 2008. "The G Word." *Planning* 74, no. 2: 26–32

- In 2004, more than 37 million people visited Las Vegas. Compare this to 1970 when a mere 6.7 million people visited the city
- More than 22,000 conventions were held in Las Vegas in 2004
- In 2004, visitors stayed an average of 3.6 nights

Source: Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority

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- Cooper, Marc. 2004. *The Last Honest Place in America: Paradise and Perdition in the New Las Vegas*. Nation Books.

## Web Sites of Interest to Planners

*City of Las Vegas*

General website – <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/>

Fact Sheet – [http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/CLV\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_2008.pdf](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/CLV_Fact_Sheet_2008.pdf)

Interactive Map – <http://major.lasvegasnevada.gov/website/clvcamps/viewer.htm?ID=#>

Fun Facts About Las Vegas – <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/FactsStatistics/funfacts.htm>

City of Las Vegas, Department of Planning and Development Services

Master Plan 2020 Policy Document – <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/LV2020MasterPlan.pdf>

Master Plan and Special Area Plans –

<http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Publications/plans.asp?id=5369#5369>

Growth in Las Vegas – fact sheet #1 – <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/4thQtrFinal.pdf>

Growth in Las Vegas – fact sheet #2 –

[http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/And\\_Another\\_Thing\\_2nd\\_Qtr\\_06.pdf](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/And_Another_Thing_2nd_Qtr_06.pdf)

*Clark County Comprehensive Planning Office*

[http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/comprehensive\\_planning/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/comprehensive_planning/Pages/home.aspx)

*Southern Nevada Regional Planning Commission*

<http://www.snrpc.org/>

*Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association*

<http://www.nvapa.org/>

*United States Geological Survey*

[http://geochange.er.usgs.gov/sw/changes/anthropogenic/population/las\\_vegas/](http://geochange.er.usgs.gov/sw/changes/anthropogenic/population/las_vegas/)

Other Las Vegas Related Sites

Fremont Street Experience

<http://www.vegasexperience.com/>



# Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Related Activities at the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers

## OVERVIEW OF SPECIALTY GROUP SPONSORED SESSIONS

### Monday, March 23

2152 – 8:00 am to 9:40 pm	Urbanization, Development, and Planning I: Local Scale Patterns, Process and Trends
2252 – 10:10 a.m. to 11:50 am	Urbanization, Development, and Planning II: Regional Scale Patterns, Process and Trends

### Tuesday, March 24

3127 – 8:00 am to 9:40 am	New Geographies of Two Koreas I: Culture, Economy, and Environment
3227 – 10:10 am to 11:50 am	New Geographies of Two Koreas II: Culture, Economy, and Environment

### Wednesday, March 25

4151 – 8:00 am to 9:40 am	Evolution of Professional Geography in India
4251 – 10:10 am to 11:50 am	Evolution of Professional Geography in India 2
4351 – 11:50 am to 12:50 am	Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Business Meeting
4451 – 1:00 pm to 2:40 pm	Residential Landscapes in the Long Term Ecological Research Network
4551 – 3:10 pm to 4:50 pm	<i>Panel Session</i> – A Date with Social Geography: Celebrating Dr. Allen G. Noble's Distinguished Scholarship and Career
4643 – 5:20 pm to 7:00 pm	China's Emerging City Regions III: Globalization, Innovation, and Development

### Thursday, March 26

5108 – 8:00 am to 9:40 am	Climate Change, Development and Research Agendas in the Lower Colorado River Basin
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### Friday, March 27

6120 – 8:00 am to 9:40 am	Rural and Exurban Dynamics
6220 – 10:10 am to 11:50 am	Rural and Exurban Dynamics II

Our signature **Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Downtown Walking Tour** is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Due to the layout of Las Vegas, it will be converted to a bus tour for this meeting. You must register for the walking tour via the AAG conference website. All AAG field trips depart from the conference center main lobby. See the bottom of page 30 for more information.

As noted above, the **Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Business Meeting** (session 4351) is scheduled for 11:50 to 12:50 on Wednesday, March 25. We would be glad to see our colleagues there!

The Las Vegas meeting finds the specialty group organizing fourteen organized sessions and meetings! Remember that the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Business Meeting (session 4351) is scheduled for 11:50 to 12:50 on Wednesday, March 25 – we would love to see you there! Details for our sessions are found below.

## DETAIL OF SESSIONS

**2152 Urbanization, Development, and Planning I: Local Scale Patterns, Process and Trends** is scheduled on Monday, 3/23/09, from 8:00 AM – 9:40 AM in North Hall N113, Las Vegas Convention Center

*Organizers:*

**George M. Pomeroy** – Shippensburg University; **Sudhir K. Thakur** – California State University Sacramento

*Chair:*

**Christian Tetley** – Trent University

*Presenters / Papers:*

8:00 AM Author: **John E. Benhart** – Shippensburg University; Abstract Title: **Collier County, Florida: A Regional Development and Land Use Assessment**

8:20 AM Author: **Debnath Mookherjee**, Professor – Western Washington University; Abstract Title: **Urban Growth and Development: Bellingham, Washington Revisited**

8:40 AM Author: **George M. Pomeroy** – Shippensburg University; Abstract Title: **University and Local Government Collaboration in Land Use Planning: The Case of Shippensburg University**

9:00 AM Author: **Christopher Cusack** – Keene State College; Abstract Title: **Undergraduates in Action: Students and the Participatory Planning Process in Keene, New Hampshire.**

9:20 AM Author: **Samuel Thompson** – Western Illinois University; Abstract Title: **Small Towns and Immigrant**

**Populations: What are the Challenges for Planners?**

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**2252 Urbanization, Development and Planning II: Regional Scale Patterns, Processes and Trends** is scheduled on Monday, 3/23/09, from 10:10 AM – 11:50 AM in North Hall N113, Las Vegas Convention Center

*Organizers:*

**George M. Pomeroy** – Shippensburg University; **Sudhir K. Thakur** – California State University Sacramento

*Chairs:*

**Rajrani Kalra** – California State University, San Bernardino

*Presenters / Papers:*

10:10 AM Author: **Sudhir K. Thakur** – California State University Sacramento; Abstract Title: **Studies in Regional Economic Development in India: Review and Prospects**

10:30 AM Author: **Rajrani Kalra** – California State University, San Bernardino; Abstract Title: **High Technology and Regional Development in Selected Indian Metropolitan Areas: Are Processes and Patterns Congruent?**

10:50 AM Author: **Jonah White** – Western Washington University; Abstract Title: **Perspectives on Gentrification in Seattle, Washington: 1980–2000**

11:10 AM Author: **Jennifer Pomeroy** – University of Maryland at College Park; Abstract Title: **Analyzing Land–Use and Land–Cover Change in Selected Metropolitan Counties of Washington, D.C. Region**

11:30 AM Author: **Christian Tettey** – University of Akron;  
Abstract Title: **Possible Socio-economic factors underlying Urbanization in the regions of Africa**

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**3127 New Geographies of Two Koreas I: Culture, Economy, and Environment** is scheduled on Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 8:00 AM – 9:40 AM in Capri 115, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor.

Co-sponsored by the Asian Geography Specialty Group

*Organizers:*

**Jongnam Choi** – Western Illinois University; **Su-Yeul Chung** – Western Illinois University

*Chair:*

**Jongnam Choi** – Western Illinois University

*Session Description:* Korean is one of the last nations which split into two states. South Korea, one of the four Asian tigers, has achieved rapid economic growth during the last several decades. As a result of this economic growth, there has been general improvement in the quality of life. But, there are also adverse effects of the rapid growth such as income inequality and environment problems. More recently, in its course of globalization, mass inflows of immigrant workers and foreign brides herald changes in South Korea's longstanding mono-ethnicity. On the other hands, North Korea suffers from deep economic depression partly due to its self-sufficient development strategy combined with economic sanction from the western world. An international issue is refugees to neighboring China. Also, environmental deterioration makes North Korea so vulnerable to natural disaster. North Korea, however, gradually opens the door to other countries. An icon of this move is the special economic zone where North Korea invites South Korean capital. This special session aims to bring together a group of geographers who are interested in political, social, economic, and environmental issues in both South Korea and North Korea.

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**3227 New Geographies of Two Koreas II: Culture, Economy, and Environment** is scheduled on Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 10:10 AM – 11:50 AM in Capri 115, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Co-sponsored by the Asian Geography Specialty Group

*Organizers:*

**Jongnam Choi** – Western Illinois University; **Su-Yeul Chung** – Western Illinois University

*Chairs:*

**Su-Yeul Chung** – Western Illinois University

*Presenters / Papers:*

10:10 AM Author: **Su-Yeul Chung** – Western Illinois University; Abstract Title: **Spatial Dimension of Immigrant Entrepreneurship: A Case Study of Self-employed Korean immigrants in Chicago IL PMSA**

10:30 AM Author: **Jeong Hyop Lee** – UC Berkeley; Abstract Title: **Searching for Horizontal Networks: the Case of Gumi Mobile Cluster**

10:50 AM Authors: **Ji-Man Park**, Doctor – Korean Land Spatialization Group, Incheon of Korea and **Soo-Hong Park**, Associate Professor – The Department of Geoinformatic Engineering, Inha UNIV., Incheon of Korea. Abstract Title: **Korean Land Spatialization Program for Korean National GIS**

11:10 AM Author: **Jongnam Choi** – Western Illinois University; Abstract Title: **The Climate of North Korea and Inter-annual Climate Change: 1978–2007**

*Session Description:* Korean is one of the last nations which split into two states. South Korea, one of the four Asian tigers, has achieved rapid economic growth during the last several decades. As a result of this economic growth, there has been general improvement in the quality of life. But, there are also adverse effects of the rapid growth such as income inequality and environment problems. More recently, in its course of globalization, mass inflows of immigrant workers and foreign brides herald changes in South Korea's longstanding mono-ethnicity. On the other hands, North Korea suffers from deep economic depression partly due to its self-sufficient development strategy combined with economic sanction

from the western world. An international issue is refugees to neighboring China. Also, environmental deterioration makes North Korea so vulnerable to natural disaster. North Korea, however, gradually opens the door to other countries. An icon of this move is the special economic zone where North Korea invites South Korean capital. This special session aims to bring together a group of geographers who are interested in political, social, economic, and environmental issues in both South Korea and North Korea.

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#### **4151 Evolution of Professional Geography in India**

is scheduled on Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 8:00 AM – 9:40 AM in North Hall N112, Las Vegas Convention Center.

Co-sponsored with the Asian Geography Specialty Group

##### *Organizers:*

**Vatsal Bhatt** – Brookhaven National Laboratory

**Chandana Mitra** – University of Georgia

##### *Chair:*

**Vatsal Bhatt** – Brookhaven National Laboratory

##### *Presenters / Papers:*

8:00 AM Author: **Annapurna Shaw** – Indian Institute of Management; Abstract Title: **Metropolitan governance and inequality in India**

8:20 AM Author: **Satish Kumar**; Abstract Title: **Regional Incidence of Urban Poverty in India: 'White Tiger' and Beyond**

8:40 AM Authors: **Nagaraj Kapil Kanala** – Missouri State University and **Jun Luo**, Assistant Professor – Missouri State University; Abstract Title: **Emerging Geography of Real Estate in India**

9:00 AM Authors: **Suparna Das** – Department of Geography, University of Utah and **Thomas M Kontuly**, Professor – Department of Geography, University of Utah

Abstract Title: **Assessing the Impact of Economic Liberalization on the Growth, Development and Spatial**

#### **Distribution of Urban Unorganized Manufacturing Sector in India.**

9:20 AM Authors: **Baleshwar Thakur, Dr.** – University of Delhi; Abstract Title: **Application and Reformulation of Multiple Nuclei Theory: The case of Indian Cities.**

*Session Description:* Indian economy is expected to grow at 7 to 9 percent per year in coming decades, where as the developmental challenges under new global economic order faced by India are manifold. At this juncture, geographers need to take stock of the development trends and suggest strategies towards a sustainable future. For instance, the issues related to natural resource management and environment, agricultural practices, social development and poverty alleviation as well as urban and rural development are of great concern for the policy maker and planners in India in order to sustain the high economic growth. At the same time, contemporary issues of climate change and human settlement would require to be dealt with greater understanding of basic geographical factors hence ensuring the better future for the next generations. Especially viewing it through the lenses of professional geographers working directly in the development sector would provide a closer understanding of the existing knowledge, techniques and skills, which are expanding rapidly in India.

The aim of this paper session is to provide a platform for scholars and professionals dealing with the significance of Geographical knowledge and techniques to the contemporary development practices in India.

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**4251 Evolution of Professional Geography in India 2** is scheduled on Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 10:10 AM – 11:50 AM in North Hall N112, Las Vegas Convention Center

Co-sponsored by the Asian Geography Specialty Group

##### *Organizers:*

**Vatsal Bhatt** – Brookhaven National Laboratory

**Chandana Mitra** – University of Georgia

##### *Chair:*

**Vatsal Bhatt** – Brookhaven National Laboratory

*Presenters / Papers:*

10:10 AM Author: **Sumanth G. Reddy**, PhD Student – Kansas State University; Abstract Title: **An Explorative Study of Medical Tourism in India**

10:30 AM Author: **Kathryn Cavanaugh Tanner**, Ph.D. – Sarah Lawrence College; Abstract Title: **Environmental Governance in South-South Trade Networks: the case study of the seashell trade between Tanzania and India**

10:50 AM Authors: **Kumkum Bhattacharyya** – Portland State University; Abstract Title: **After six decades of dam operation: A case study of the Damodar River, India**

11:10 AM Author: **Govind Gopakumar** – RPI; Abstract Title: **'Degenerated Peripheralisation' in Chennai: Water Supply Infrastructure, Dravidian Politics & Urban Governance**

11:30 AM Author: **Byron T. Smith**, master's degree student – Univ. of South Carolina; Abstract Title: **Two Case Studies of Reverse Engineering in Asia**

*Session Description:* Indian economy is expected to grow at 7 to 9 percent per year in coming decades, where as the developmental challenges under new global economic order faced by India are manifold. At this juncture, geographers need to take stock of the development trends and suggest strategies towards a sustainable future. For instance, the issues related to natural resource management and environment, agricultural practices, social development and poverty alleviation as well as urban and rural development are of great concern for the policy maker and planners in India in order to sustain the high economic growth. At the same time, contemporary issues of climate change and human settlement would require to be dealt with greater understanding of basic geographical factors hence ensuring the better future for the next generations. Especially viewing it through the lenses of professional geographers working directly in the development sector would provide a closer understanding of the existing knowledge, techniques and skills, which are expanding rapidly in India.

The aim of this paper session is to provide a platform for scholars and professionals dealing with the significance of Geographical knowledge and techniques to the contemporary development practices in India.

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**4351 Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Business Meeting** is scheduled on Wednesday, 3/25/09 – 11:50 AM to 12:50 PM.

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**4451 Residential Landscapes in the Long Term Ecological Research Network** is scheduled on Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 1:00 PM – 2:40 PM in North Hall N112, Las Vegas Convention Center

Co-sponsored by the Human Dimensions of Global Change and Spatial Analysis and Modeling specialty groups.

*Organizer and Chair:*

**Robert Gilmore Pontius** – Clark University

*Presenters / Papers:*

31:00 PM Authors: **Kelli L. Larson, Ph.D.** – Arizona State University, **Elizabeth Cook** – Arizona State University, and **Sharon Hall, Ph.D.** – Arizona State University; Abstract Title: **Social-Ecological Dynamics of Residential Landscapes in an Urban Ecosystem Context**

1:16 PM Authors: **Morgan Grove** – USDA Forest Service, **Chris Boone** – Arizona State University, and **Jim Fraser** – Vanderbilt University; Abstract Title: **Green with Envy: Understanding the Social-Ecological Dynamics of Residential Landscapes in the Baltimore Ecosystem Study**

1:32 PM Author(s): **Rinku Roy Chowdhury** – Indiana University, **Laura Ogden** – Florida International University, and **Jeffrey Onsted** – Florida International University; Abstract Title: **Characterizing and contextualizing residential land cover in south Florida**

1:48 PM Author: **Colin Polsky** – Clark University; Abstract Title: **Understanding Suburban Landscapes: Lawns, Water, and Zoning in Boston**



2:04 PM Authors: **Robert Gilmore Pontius, Jr.** – Clark University and **Neeti Neeti** – Clark University; Abstract Title: Uncertainty in the difference between maps of future land change scenarios

2:20 PM Discussant: **Paul Robbins** – University of Arizona

*Session Description:* This session contains presentations by members of the National Science Foundation's Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) network. Each presentation integrates social and ecological sciences at one of the LTER's human dominated sites: Phoenix, Baltimore, Boston, or South Florida. We focus on how humans influence land cover and how land cover influences humans, especially concerning residential lawn management.

**4551 A Date with Social Geography: Celebrating Dr. Allen G. Noble's Distinguished Scholarship and Career** is scheduled on Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 3:10 PM – 4:50 PM in North Hall N112, Las Vegas Convention Center

*Organizers:*

**Vandana Wadhwa** – Boston University  
**Frank J. Costa**

*Chair:*

**Ashok K. Dutt** – University Of Akron

*Panelists:*

**John E. Benhart** – Shippensburg University  
**Pradyumna P. Karan** – University Of Kentucky  
**Laurence J.C. Ma** – The University Of Akron  
**Yehua Dennis Wei** – University of Utah  
**Samuel Thompson** – Western Illinois University  
**Ramesh C. Dhussa** – Drake University  
**Rajrani Kalra** – California State University, San Bernardino  
**Sudhir K. Thakur** – California State University Sacramento  
**Baleshwar Thakur** – University of Delhi

*Speakers:*

**Frank J. Costa**

*Introducers:*

**Ashok K. Dutt** – University Of Akron

*Session Description:* The session will highlight the academic and other achievements of social geographer Dr. Allen G. Noble by way of discussing his contributions to the field and discussing new developments in Social Geography. The book "Facets of Social Geography: International and Indian Perspectives," a felicitation to Dr. Noble, will also be released at this venue. The session will seek to stimulate interest in Social Geography for students entering the field, and also serve as a forum for discussion among peers, while celebrating Dr. Noble's professional life and how he has touched the many people around him.

**4643 China's Emerging City Regions III: Globalization, Innovation, and Development** is scheduled on Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 5:20 PM – 7:00 PM in North Hall N101, Las Vegas Convention Center

Co-sponsored by China and Asian specialty groups

*Organizers:*

**Yehua Dennis Wei** – University of Utah and **Yu Zhou** – Vassar College

*Chair:*

**Jun Luo** – Missouri State University

*Presenters / Papers:*

5:20 PM Authors: **Zhouying Song** – Chinese Academy of Sciences and **Weidong Liu** – Chinese Academy of Sciences; Abstract Title: **Factors Affecting the Application of New ICTs in SMEs in China**

5:40 PM Authors: **Spencer Cohen** – University of Washington; Abstract Title: **Local State Autonomy in Development: the High Tech Sector in China and Agenda for Future Research**

6:00 PM Authors: **Yingru Li** and **Yehua Dennis Wei**; Abstract Title: **Beyond Convergence: Geographies of Regional Inequality of China**

6:20 PM Author: **Danlin Yu** – Montclair State University; Abstract Title: **Homogenized Geographically and Temporally Weighted Regression (HGTWR): An Investigation of Spatiotemporal Interaction in Studying China's Economic Efficiency**

6:40 PM Author: **Guo Chen, Dr.** – Michigan State University; Abstract Title: **Urban Expansion and Inequalities: Cases of Emerging City-regions in Coastal China**

*Session Description:* What are effective pathways to technological progress and economic development in developing countries especially China? Industrial districts/clusters? Local assets? Untraded interdependence? Institutional thickness? Regional innovation systems? Integration with GCCs/GVCs/GPNs? Do China's experiences offer any insights to theoretical development? We propose special sessions to examine broadly the interfaces among globalization, innovation, and urban-regional development in China, especially institutional and geographical dimensions of such linkages and the effects of global-local networks on innovation and development.

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**5108 Climate Change, Development and Research Agendas in the Lower Colorado River Basin** is scheduled on Thursday, 3/26/09, from 8:00 AM – 9:40 AM in Royale Pavilion 3, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Co-sponsored with the Water Resources and Climate specialty groups

*Organizers:*

**Kin M. Ma** – Grand Valley State University  
**William J. Smith** – University of Nevada Las Vegas

*Chair:*

**Cort J. Willmott** – University of Delaware

*Panelists:*

**Patricia Gober** – Arizona State University  
**John R. Weeks** – San Diego State University  
**Michael Young** – Desert Research Institute  
**Dale Devitt** – University of Nevada Las Vegas  
**William J. Smith** – University of Nevada Las Vegas  
**Young-Doo Wang** – University of Delaware

*Discussant:*

**Stanley Smith** – University of Nevada, Las Vegas

*Session Description:* The Lower Colorado River Basin is arguably the most dynamic river basin in the U.S. Severe concerns regarding water allocation, tremendous population growth, ecosystem stress, infrastructure, emerging science, and how to integrate theory and practice to support sustainability, are exacerbated by climate change. This panel gathers researchers from across the Lower Colorado River Basin to discuss both what they target for their own future research in the basin in the next 10 years, as well as partnerships across sub-disciplines in that same time frame, that they will require to make progress in collecting vital data and addressing major basin issues. Session #2 will emphasize the challenges to sustainable regional development within the Lower Colorado River Basin in the face of climate change.

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**6120 Rural and Exurban Dynamics** is scheduled on Friday, 3/27/09, from 8:00 AM – 9:40 AM in Capri 107, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Co-sponsored with the Rural and Urban specialty groups

*Organizer and Chair:*

**Christopher Badurek** – Appalachian State University

*Presenters / Papers:*

8:00 AM Authors: **Meaghan E. Bernard, MA** – City-Region Studies Centre, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta and **Doug Knight, PhD** – City-Region Studies Centre, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta; Abstract Title: **Urban-Rural Interdependencies: The Benefits and Costs of Urban-Rural Cooperation in Alberta, Canada**

8:20 AM Author: **Richard J. Crepeau, Ph.D.** – Appalachian State University; Abstract Title: **Grappling with the Paucity of Timely Economic Data in North Carolina: The Western North Carolina Economic Index**

8:40 AM Authors: **Dennis M Brown, Ph.D.** – U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and **Richard J Reeder, M.A.** – U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; Abstract Title: **Effects of Recreation-Led Development in Rural America: Variations by Type of Recreation Activity**

9:00 AM Authors: **Christopher A. Badurek** – Appalachian State University and **Austin Chamberlain** – Appalachian State University; Abstract Title: **Measuring Rural–Exurban Change in Western North Carolina using Housing Density Surface Analysis**

9:20 AM Author: **Reuben S. Rose–Redwood, Ph.D.** – Texas A&M University; Abstract Title: **Spaces of Calculation: Street Addressing and the Remaking of Urban and Rural Space**

*Session Description:* This session addresses rural change, exurban growth, rural gentrification, housing growth, land use change, land conservation, demographic and economic transition, GIS models, and related environmental consequences.

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**6220 Rural and Exurban Dynamics II** is scheduled on Friday, 3/27/09, from 10:10 AM – 11:50 AM in Capri 107, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Co-sponsored with the Rural and Urban specialty groups

*Organizer and Chair:*

**Christopher Badurek** – Appalachian State University

*Presenters / Papers:*

10:10 AM Authors: **Susan J. Gilbertz** – Montana State University–Billings and **Eric Austin** – Montana State University Bozeman; Abstract Title: **Ironic Icon: Private Property Rights as the Vanguard of Western Values**

10:30 AM Author: **Andree Tremoulet** – Portland State University; Abstract Title: **The Political Economy of Mobile Home Park Closures In Oregon**

10:50 AM Author: **Nicole Prchal Svajlenka** – The George Washington University; Abstract Title: **Rural Landscape Change: Forest Recovery and Urban to Rural Migration in Eaton, NY**

11:10 AM Authors: **Carla Norwood** – UNC Chapel Hill and **Gabriel Cumming, PhD** – Duke University; Abstract Title: **Mapping to Understand Amenity-driven Growth and Support Local Capacity for Land Use Planning**

11:30 AM Authors: **Stephanie Smith** – Appalachian State University, Department of Geography and Planning and **Dr. Gabrielle Katz** – Appalachian State University, Department of Geography and Planning; Abstract Title: **Multi-scale Effects of Land Use on Biotic Diversity in a Rural and Exurban Landscape**

*Session Description:* This session addresses rural change, exurban growth, rural gentrification, housing growth, land use change, land conservation, demographic and economic transition, GIS models, and related environmental consequences.

### **Planning Las Vegas: A Profile of Urban Planning Activities in the City of Las Vegas, Courtesy of the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group**

Thursday, March 26, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Organizers: George M. Pomeroy, Shippensburg University, M. Margo Wheeler, City of Las Vegas

Leaders: M. Margo Wheeler, City of Las Vegas, Christian Tetley, Trent University

Trip Capacity: 46

Cost/person: \$35 (includes transportation)

Our traditional downtown walking tour “hits the road” this year! Via bus, the field trip will visit a number of sites of planning significance within the City of Las Vegas. Notable stops / features include Glitter Gulch, the historic Mormon Fort, and several redevelopment areas including the new baseball stadium site. Also included are several different neighborhood types (historic, distressed, and affluent). Altogether the field trip promises an intriguing perspective of what one sees behind the Strip – what locals call the “back lot” of Las Vegas, as well as selected bits of the Strip area itself.

This tour, traditionally a downtown walking tour, is a signature event of the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group. The specialty group has organized a local planning related field in each AAG annual meeting host for over the twenty years. This year’s tour is fortunate in being ably hosted and co-lead by Margo Wheeler, Director of Planning and Development Services for the City of Las Vegas. Ms. Wheeler’s local insight and expertise provides participants with the best possible view into planning, Las Vegas-style.

## ***Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Awards***

The Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group (RDPSG) has five awards that may be made annually. These 1) the Ashok K. Dutt Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in the field of regional development and planning; 2) the A.K. Chakravarti Award for Best Student Paper on South Asia; 3) The Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award; 4) the RDPSG Distinguished Scholar Award; and 5) the RDPSG Distinguished Service Award. These awards are considered by the Honors Committee of the RDPSG and are awards are made at the Meeting of the RDPSG during the AAG Annual Meeting. Each of these five awards is further described below. For those who are interested in nominations, paper submissions, or have other questions, contact information for the relevant Honors Committee members is provided further below.

### **Ashok K. Dutt Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in the Field of Regional Development and Planning**

The Ashok K. Dutt Award for Best Graduate Student Paper is co-sponsored with the University of Akron Department of Geography and Planning. There is an accompanying \$200 award premium. The paper must deal with urban and regional development and planning, as well as be scheduled for presentation at the Annual Meeting. Manuscripts must be no more than twenty-five double-spaced, typed pages including maps and other figures. Manuscripts must be forwarded by the head or chair of the department or program, with a letter certifying that the student meets the eligibility requirements (including not having been submitted for other specialty group awards). Deadline for final paper submission is March 1 each year. The abstract for the paper must have also been submitted to the AAG Annual Meeting by the conference registration deadline.

The award is named for and funded by Dr. Ashok K. Dutt, Professor Emeritus of Geography and Planning, The University of Akron. Dr. Dutt is a distinguished scholar who is well recognized for his research, service, and prolific publication record across not only regional development and planning, but also urban geography, cultural geography, medical geography, and with regional expertise in South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Europe. Dr. Dutt is one of the founding leaders of the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group and actively continues as its intellectual heart.

### **A.K. Chakravarti Award for Best Student Paper on South Asia**

The A.K. Chakravarti Award for Best Student Paper on South Asia is co-sponsored with the Asian Geography Specialty Group. There is an accompanying \$200 award premium. The paper must deal with a topic on regional development and planning in South Asia. Manuscripts must be not more than 25 pages in length, double spaced and typed. This page limit includes maps and graphics. An abstract must also have been submitted to the AAG Annual Meeting by the conference registration deadline. Papers

*(continued on next page)*

*Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Awards – continued from previous page*

shall be forwarded by the head or chair of the department or program, with a letter certifying that the student meets the eligibility requirements (including not having been submitted for other specialty group awards). Deadline for final paper submission is March 1 each year.

The paper award and premium were established by the late A.K. Chakravarti, Professor Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Chakravarti was a noted and noted researcher in the field of agriculture and nutrition focusing on South Asia.

### **The Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Award for Best Undergraduate Student Paper**

Established in 2008, the Best Graduate Student Paper Award is the specialty group's newest award. There is an accompanying \$150 award premium. The paper must deal with urban and regional development, planning or policy. Manuscripts submitted may be 12 to 15 or more pages in length, double-spaced, and typed pages, including maps and other figures. Manuscripts must be forwarded by the head or chair of the department or program, with a letter certifying that the student meets the eligibility requirements (including not having been submitted for other specialty group awards). Deadline for final paper submission is March 1 each year. Scheduled presentation of the competing papers at the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) is desired but not required, although the winner is expected to present the paper at a subsequent annual meeting of the AAG if they do not do so concurrent to the award.

### **The Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Distinguished Service and Scholarship Awards**

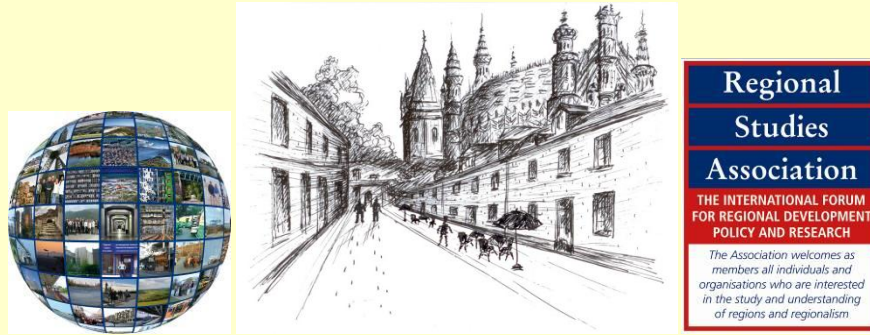
The specialty group is also seeks nominations for the specialty group's Distinguished Service and Distinguished Scholarship Awards. These awards recognize individuals who have made outstanding service and scholarship contributions, respectively. A nomination letter that includes name, affiliation, and contact information of the nominee, as well as a statement that describes the person's outstanding contributions to the field regional development and planning is required. A professional vita of the nominee should also be included. Nominations for both awards are accepted during the period from September 1 through March 1 each year.

### **Contact Information**

*For more information or to make nominations for all awards (except the A.K. Chakravarti Award), please contact:* RDPSG Honors Committee Chair Jay D. Gatrell, Department of Geography, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809. Voice: (812) 237-2444. E-mail: [jgatrell@isugw.indstate.edu](mailto:jgatrell@isugw.indstate.edu).

*For more information or to make nominations for the A.K. Chakravarti Award, please contact:* Vandana Wadhwa, PhD; Lecturer, Dept of Geography and Environment, Boston University, Boston, MA 02215; Ph: (781) 269-5685 (home--Boston, MA); (330) 701-1523 (cell); [vandanaw@comcast.net](mailto:vandanaw@comcast.net).





## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Understanding and Shaping Regions: Spatial, Social and Economic Futures

Regional Studies Association, Annual Conference  
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium,

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
(with optional field excursions on the afternoon of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009)

### Introducing NEW territorial conference registration and membership pricing\*

The thirteenth in its annual series of conferences, this event is in the heart of Europe in the picturesque town of Leuven, located only 30 kilometres east of Brussels, Belgium. Leuven is easy to reach by flying to Brussels National Airport (transfer by bus, train or taxi in c.20 minutes). It is the home to Stella Artois beer!

The conference will follow the Regional Studies Association normal structure with a vibrant mix of plenary sessions interspersed with roundtables, special sessions and workshop sessions running in parallel gateways.

Inclusive by design, this conference offers a major networking opportunity to scholars in our field. **All submitted abstracts are accepted** by the organisers but the right is reserved to enter into discussions with the paper authors about the focus and approach of any paper in order to improve its fit with the session or its overall quality. We welcome papers from all - academics, students and those working in policy and practice and we encourage the submission of ideas for sessions from the community.

We encourage the submission of ideas for sessions from the community. If you have a research network or seminar group why not use our event to showcase your work? Contact our office for more information - [lisa.bibby-larsen@rsa-ls.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.bibby-larsen@rsa-ls.ac.uk)

All contributors will need to register for the conference when submitting their abstract via our secure online conference portal at:

[https://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/ei/getdemo.ei?id=8&s=\\_3W40NVSJO](https://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/ei/getdemo.ei?id=8&s=_3W40NVSJO)

Abstracts should be between 400 and 800 words and will form the submission to the conference abstract volume which carries an ISBN number. Abstract submission deadline is 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

In 2009 for the first time the Association will award a prize for the best paper - we will use a tiered judging system where gateway convenors recommend papers to the conference organising committee whose decision will be final. Any full paper submitted to the conference by the closing date for the competition of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2009 will be automatically entered into the competition and the winner will be announced in the final plenary session.

The full call for papers is available on our website: <http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/060409.asp> along with a link for hotel bookings <http://www.be.worldmeetings.com/rsa2009> and information on Leuven in general <http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/leuven09/information.pdf>

Conference themes for submitting abstracts:

- Regional policy and evaluation
- Regions as innovation hubs
- Labour markets, employability, worklessness and migration
- Spatial planning, cities and regions
- City regions, governance and democracy
- Tourism, innovation and local development
- Experience economy and spatial strategies
- Regional and local identity: culture and imagination
- Economic restructuring
- Local and regional economic development
- Liveability and environmental quality in local and regional development strategies
- Territorial politics, regionalism and federalism
- Social inequality, health and well-being - regional perspectives
- Mobilities and connectivities - drivers for change
- Non-urban issues - rurality and peripherality and island development

### **Territorial conference registration pricing:**

Countries have been Banded A, B, C and D and have been compiled using GDP per capita PPP USD tables from the United Nations Development Programme Report 2007-2008. In addition to this we are offering a reduced conference registration price for members who register for the conference on or before 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

#### **BAND A:**

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brunei, Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, China (SAR), Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE, UK, USA

**RSA Individual and Corporate members' conference registration fee: £310**

**RSA Student, Early Career and Associate members' conference registration fee: £232**

#### **BAND B:**

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Oman, Poland, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Slovakia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago

**RSA Individual and Corporate members conference registration fee: £232**

RSA Student, Early Career and Associate members' conference registration fee: £225

**BAND C:**

Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Macedonia (TFYR), Maldives, Namibia, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

RSA Individual, Student, Early Career, Associate and Corporate members' conference registration fee: £155

**BAND D:**

Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Burkia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania (United Republic of), Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

RSA Individual, Student, Early Career, Associate and Corporate members' conference registration fee: £78

ALL non-RSA members registering on or before 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009 pay £350

ALL registrations received on or after 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009 pay £399

## **Territorial membership pricing 2009:**

**Comments received from our last international conference in Prague:**

***“Such a diversity of issues and topics! A friendly conference with excellent organisation”***

***“Stimulating, well organised - very friendly atmosphere”***

***“Something for everyone - Excellent networking opportunities”***

**Band A:** Individual £77, Student £36, Early Career £58, Associate £58 and Corporate £157

**Band B:** Individual £58, Student £27, Early Career £44, Associate £44 and Corporate £118

**Band C:** Individual £39, Student £18, Early Career £29, Associate £29 and Corporate £79

**Band D:** Individual £19, Student £9, Early Career £15, Associate £15 and Corporate £39

The benefits of membership and details of the territorial pricing based on your country of residence can be found here: <http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/members/benefits.asp>

## *Welcome to Hong Kong!*



### Call for Papers for the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Urbanization Conference The University of Hong Kong Hong Kong SAR, China

August 16-19, 2009

[www.hku.hk/asia2009](http://www.hku.hk/asia2009)

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 February 2009

**Conference Themes:** Theoretical or empirical studies on urban form and process, urban population change including migration, urban systems, quality of life, sustainable development, city marketing and economic development, social justice, urban governance, applications related to GIS, comparative urbanization, and environmental conditions in Asian cities. Other papers which contribute to an understanding of Asian urbanization are welcomed.

**Paper Abstract Submission and Registration:** Abstract should be 100 to no more than 200 words and should be submitted online. The abstract should provide information on the research problem, study area, data, methodology, findings, and significance of the research. While the format of your abstract may vary from this format, these contents are useful and informative to the conference participants. Co-authored papers should indicate who is the main presenter and author. Submission of complete paper is strongly encouraged. Selected papers will be considered for publication after the conference.

Conference Secretariat:

Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning  
The University of Hong Kong  
Pokfulam Road  
Hong Kong SAR, China

Tel: (+852) 2859-2721  
Fax: (+852) 2559-0468  
Email: [asia2009@hku.hk](mailto:asia2009@hku.hk)

Homepage: [www.hku.hk/asia2009](http://www.hku.hk/asia2009)

Detailed information of the conference is available at [www.hku.hk/asia2009](http://www.hku.hk/asia2009). Please contact the Conference Organizer, Professor Anthony G. O. Yeh or Dr. Roger C. K. Chan of the University of Hong Kong, or Dr George Pomeroy (Asian Urban Research Association (AURA) Secretary-General) if further information is needed.

The Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group Newsletter is YOUR newsletter!!! Thus it needs YOUR news items!!!

Please send in news of publications, conferences, grant announcements, updates on research activities, and other relevant items to:

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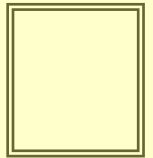
*Dear Colleagues,*

*We are always glad to receive your news – please do send items in! This is one great opportunity to network with your colleagues across the field of regional development and planning, so do take advantage of it. You may also want your news profiled to show your administrators the significance of your service and research within this sub-field of geography.*

*Thank You!!!*

*George and Sudhir*

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**RDPSG Member**