About the EDGE Project

Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education in Geography (EDGE) is an NSF-funded research and action project led by the Association of American Geographers to enhance the career preparation of professional geographers. EDGE-Phase 2 (2009-2012) focuses on employment opportunities for geographers in business, government, and nonprofit (BGN) organizations. Researchers are collecting a variety of data from professional geographers, employer organizations, and graduate programs to examine workforce development, industry trends, and the career paths of master’s and doctoral students. Project deliverables include paper and panel sessions at regional and national professional meetings, updates and additions to the Jobs and Careers area of the AAG’s website (www.aag.org/careers), expanded activities within the Jobs in Geography Center at the AAG’s Annual Meeting, journal articles, and books, including Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment (Pearson Education 2012).

About the panelists

Joy K. Adams [moderator] is a Senior Researcher at the headquarters of the Association of American Geographers in Washington, D.C., where she is a consultant for projects on professional development and careers for geographers, geographic education, and diversity within the discipline. She is also the Managing Editor of the forthcoming International Encyclopedia of Geography. She received her Ph.D. and B.A. degrees in geography from The University of Texas at Austin and her M.A. in applied geography from Texas State University. Dr. Adams has worked in each of the BGN (business, government, and nonprofit) sectors, in addition to having held faculty positions in the geography departments at Humboldt State University, Texas State University-San Marcos, and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Her teaching and research have focused on cultural landscapes, ethnic geography, historical geography, and geotourism in the U.S. and Canada.

Paul C. Adams is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment at The University of Texas at Austin. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1993, then held visiting positions at Virginia Tech and the University at Albany. He survived an involuntary two-year recess from academic life, obtained a tenure-track position at Texas A&M, and finally arrived at UT-Austin in 2001. He currently teaches the second half of a required graduate course sequence focusing on proposal writing, career preparation, and professionalism. He is glad to have a chance to offer insights based on a torturous career path that included ten academic interviews and one hundred applications. He also reflects on experiences "from the other side," having chaired two different hiring committees at UT and coaching graduate students to survive and to meet their goals.

Mark Barnes is a non-traditional Ph.D. candidate in the Geography Department at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He studies the human element of transportation adaptation to climate change. Theoretical and empirical frameworks in human dimensions of global change, natural hazards, transport and urban geography sub-fields inform his work. He follows a mixed-methods protocol approach that employs participatory research focus groups, expert interviews, and spatial analysis through the use of Geographic Information Systems. Before enrolling at Rutgers, Mr. Barnes taught courses in Urban Studies, Population Geography, and World Regional Geography at Temple and West Chester universities as an adjunct faculty member while employed by such institutions as the City of Philadelphia, The University of Pennsylvania, and Urban League. He’s taught Human Geography at Rutgers and teaches a Research Writing Course on gaming and sports topics through the lens of geography in the University’s English Department. Mr. Barnes is a recipient
of the 2012 Jeanne X. Kasterson Student Paper Award presented by the Natural Hazards Specialty Group.

**Brian E. Johnson** is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Auburn University-Montgomery. He is fresh off the job market, having started his tenure track appointment in August 2011. Before starting at Auburn University-Montgomery, Dr. Johnson lived in Boston and worked in temporary positions at Boston University, Salem State University, and Rhode Island College. Having recently worked in a variety of settings, he hopes to share valuable knowledge regarding the current job market with this panel’s attendees. Additionally, Dr. Johnson sat on two job search committees while a graduate student. He earned his Ph.D. from Indiana University-Bloomington in 2010. Dr. Johnson specializes in urban geography, urban planning, and population geography. He researches land use controls, development densities, and exurban development. He teaches courses in Urban Geography, Population Geography, Economic Geography, Geography of North America, Human Geography, and Geography of World Regions.

**Wei Li** received her geography B.S. and M.S. degrees in Beijing, China, and her Ph.D. in geography at the University of Southern California. She is a Professor at the Asian Pacific American Studies/School of Social Transformation and School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University. Her research foci are immigration and integration and transnational connections, focusing on the Pacific Rim. She is the author or [co-]editor of four scholarly books and two themed journal issues, along with about 80 other academic publications. She is the Chair of the U.S. Census Bureau’s Race and Ethnic Advisory Committees (REAC) on the Asian Population (2010-2012); a member of the International Steering Committee for the International Metropolis Project; and the North American Director for the International Society of Studying Chinese Overseas. She also served as one of the inaugural class of the National Asia Research Associates with the National Bureau of Asian Research and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

**Lee Lines** is a Professor of Environmental Studies at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. He received his Ph.D. in geography from Arizona State University in 1995. His teaching and research interests are focused primarily on biogeography, conservation, and sustainable development. In recent years, he has taught field-based courses in Ecuador, the Pacific Northwest, Costa Rica, and Dominica. He is hoping to share insights on the opportunities and experiences associated with teaching at a small, liberal arts college. During his tenure at Rollins, Dr. Lines has held a wide range of positions including Department Chair, search committee chair for the Dean of Faculty, and Maher Chair of Distinguished Teaching.

**Trushna Parekh** received an M.A. in anthropology from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. in geography from The University of Texas at Austin. She began an appointment as Lyman T. Johnson Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky in 2008. Her research specializations are in urban and cultural geography, particularly gentrification, social justice, cultural memory, and African-American identity. She has conducted an NSF-funded ethnographic project to examine the process of gentrification in the Tremé neighborhood in New Orleans. Her ongoing research in this neighborhood examines the lasting impacts of Hurricane Katrina in the lives of Tremé residents. Some of her post-Katrina writing has been published in the journal *American Quarterly* and the book *In the Wake of Katrina*, edited by Clyde Woods.

**Eike (Ike) Reichardt** is an Instructor of Social Sciences at Lehigh Carbon Community College, which is located near Allentown, Pennsylvania. He teaches cultural geography in both the traditional classroom setting, as well as in the online environment. A historian by training, Dr. Reichardt received his Ph.D. in history from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His dissertation examined Germany’s history of public health and popular science during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Before his full-time appointment at LCCC, Dr. Reichardt was an adjunct instructor at both Hofstra University and Long Island University’s C.W. Post campus. He has also taught courses in a variety of disciplines at SUNY Stony Brook and at the California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Reichardt is an executive committee member of the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC), a subsidiary of the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC). For the years 2008, 2009, and 2010, he was a contributing author of the LVRC’s *State of the Lehigh Valley* report. The report highlights important aspects of the Lehigh Valley’s demographics, economy and environment. It is available at lehighvalleyresearch.org.

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