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

Janice Monk [session chair] is Research Professor of Geography and Development and Research Social Scientist Emerita of the Southwest Institute for Research on Women at the University of Arizona. As a Senior Associate of the AAG, she is Co-Principal Investigator of the EDGE project, currently working on efforts to support preparation of geographers for careers in business, government, and nonprofit sectors. With Michael Solem and Kenneth Foote, she is the co-editor of Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment and Aspiring Academics: A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty. Dr. Monk has extensive international experience through long participation in the Gender Commission of the International Geographical Union, visiting appointments in several countries, hosting international visitors, and leading faculty development projects to strengthen international perspectives in teaching in women’s studies. She is an Adjunct Professor at Macquarie University in Australia, a Past President of the AAG, co-editor of the Routledge book series International Studies of Women and Place, and an editorial board member of several international journals.

Sives Govender is the Executive Director and a member of the Board of Directors of Environmental Systems Africa (EIS-Africa). EIS-Africa is a pan-African, membership-based geoinformation knowledge network based in Pretoria, South Africa, and a registered not-for-profit Section 21 company. He has a B.Sc. in geography and an M.A. in social policy from the University of Durban-Westville (now the University of KwaZulu Natal). Mr. Govender has been involved in numerous geoinformation-related activities and projects throughout Africa to support sustainable development. He has been a contributor to UNEP’s Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) and African Environmental Outlook (AEO) publications. He has also contributed to drafting Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment, developing the African Metadata Standard, project management of a study to determine fundamental geospatial datasets for Africa, drafting the South African Spatial Data Infrastructure Act, and managing the largest GIS and remote sensing conference on the African continent (AfricaGIS). He has worked in promoting the use of geospatial science and technology in Africa, with various international and regional organizations as well as many African universities, national and sub-national institutions, and private companies.

Niem Huynh joined the AAG staff as a Senior Researcher in June 2011. She received her B.Sc. and B.Ed. degrees from York University’s Concurrent Education program in 2002. She completed her M.ES. in 2004 and Ph.D. in 2009 at the Waterloo-Laurier Graduate Program in Geography. Her dissertation focused on the role of spatial thinking in high school and university students’ problem-solving strategies using GIS. In 2008-2009, she taught science and biology at Branksome Hall, an independent girls’ school and an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School located in Toronto. Prior to joining the AAG, Niem was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Texas State
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