Noam Chomsky and Jeffrey Sachs to join AAG for Boston Meeting

Two of the world's leading public intellectuals – Noam Chomsky and Jeffrey Sachs – are scheduled to participate in the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Boston, to be held April 15-19, 2008. "In terms of the power, range, novelty and influence of his thought, Noam Chomsky is arguably the most important intellectual alive today," wrote Paul Robinson recently in the New York Times Book Review. Jeffrey Sachs has been cited in The New York Times Magazine as "probably the most important economist in the world." Sachs is the only academic to have been repeatedly ranked among the world's 100 most influential people by Time magazine.

Jeffrey Sachs, the director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, will deliver the Opening Session keynote address at the AAG meeting on Tuesday, April 15. Sachs, who is also professor of Sustainable Development and professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia, is a widely known for his work as an economic advisor to governments in Latin America, Eastern Europe, the former Yugoslavia, the former Soviet Union, Asia, and Africa. He is also Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. From 2002 to 2006, Sachs

New Patterns in Boston’s Ethnic Quilt

Boston is well known as a historic gateway to the United States for European immigrants, first for the English and then the Irish, Italians, and others. Although not a major immigrant destination today, over one quarter of Boston's city residents are foreign-born, and parts of the city and metropolitan area are being reshaped by newcomers of very different origins from those who arrived earlier.

To acquaint AAG members with these developments, we look at nine of the newer non-European ethnic groups: the three largest Asian nationality groups, the three largest Hispanic (or Latino) nationality groups, and the three largest other nationality groups. This sketch focuses on the distinctive patterns of settlement and employment specializations of each group by using data from Census 2000, especially SF4, and other sources. The non-Asian and non-Hispanic groups are measured by total ancestries reported. Because the

Abstract and Session Submission Deadline for 2008 AAG Annual Meeting Extended to November 30.
he also served as Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Director of the UN Millennium Project. He has worked extensively with international agencies and private foundations on problems of poverty reduction, hunger, and disease control – especially HIV/AIDS – in the developing world.

Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance, a nonprofit organization aimed at ending extreme global poverty. He is one of the leading voices for combining economic development with environmental sustainability, and as Director of the Earth Institute leads large-scale efforts to promote the mitigation of human-induced climate change.

Sachs’ research interests include the links of health and development, economic geography, globalization, international financial markets, emerging markets, economic development and growth, global competitiveness, and macroeconomic policies in developing and developed countries. He is author or co-author of more than two hundred scholarly articles, and has written or edited many books, including New York Times bestseller *The End of Poverty* (Penguin, 2005).

Sachs is the recipient of many awards and honors, including membership in the Institute of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also the 2005 recipient of the Sargent Shriver Award for Equal Justice, and recipient of honorary degrees from around the world.

Prior to his arrival at Columbia University in July 2002, Sachs spent over twenty years at Harvard University, most recently as Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade and Director of the Center for International Development. He received his BA, summa cum laude, from Harvard College in 1976, and his MA and PhD from Harvard University in 1978 and 1980, respectively. He joined the Harvard faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1980, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1982 and Full Professor in 1983.

Jeffrey Sachs’ Opening Session Keynote Address will provide an apt beginning to a meeting during which the topics of Geography and Global Sustainability will be pervasive, necessary, and inescapable themes.

I am also delighted to announce that Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor of Linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has agreed to join us at the AAG meeting in Boston for a special session which I have organized and will host, entitled ‘A Conversation with Noam Chomsky,’ scheduled for Friday afternoon, April 18, 2008. This special session will be a conversational interview, followed by an opportunity for audience participation through a question and answer period.

As most geographers know, Chomsky has written and lectured widely on linguistics, philosophy, intellectual history, contemporary issues, international affairs, and U.S. foreign policy. A small sampling of his numerous publications include: *Syntax*; *Syntactic Structures, Aspects of the Theory of Syntax; American Power and the New Mandarins, Cartesian Linguistics; Language and Mind; For Reasons of State, Reflections on Language; The Political Economy of Human Rights* (with E.S. Herman); *Knowledge of Language; On Power and Ideology; Language and Problems of Knowledge, Necessary Illusions; Letters from Lexington; World Orders, Old and New; Powers and Prospects; The Common Good, Profit Over People; New Horizons in the Study of Language and Mind; and Understanding Power.*

Chomsky’s work on the nature of human language and communication has profoundly transformed the field of linguistics, and greatly influenced science and philosophy more broadly. *New York Times Magazine* writer Daniel Yergin characterizes Chomsky’s ‘formulation of ‘transformational grammar’ as one of the

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State Department Appoints Schwartz Geographer of the United States

Lee Schwartz, Director of the State Department’s Office of The Geographer and Global Issues for the past five years, has been officially appointed as The Geographer of the United States, a position in which he has been serving in an acting capacity since the untimely death of Bill Wood in July of 2005. Schwartz becomes the Department’s 8th Geographer, a position established in 1921.

According to federal regulations, the position is responsible for providing guidance to all federal agencies on questions of international boundaries and sovereignty claims. Schwartz will continue to serve as the Director of the Office of The Geographer and Global Issues, which is located in the State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Under his direction, the Office has doubled in size over the past five years, adding GIS and remote sensing staff and capacity, integrating rotating science fellows on a regular basis, and launching the interagency Humanitarian Information Unit.

Previously, Schwartz held positions in the Office of the Geographer as division chief for Global Issues and for United Nations and Humanitarian Concerns. During his more than 15 years at the State Department, Schwartz has directed research and analysis on global issues from sustainable development to human rights and coordinated fieldwork and applied geography projects overseas during complex humanitarian emergencies in the Balkans, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Sudan, the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere. He has also served as the U.S. government’s expert delegate for Geneva Process on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration, and Asylum Seekers, as a representative to the Global Futures Forum, and as a focal point for State Department efforts on strategic warning. His recent work has focused on ethnic conflict, refugee flows, peacekeeping operations, conflict mitigation and response, and humanitarian information coordination. Schwartz was named the State Department’s 2005 winner of the Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs.

Schwartz’s academic background is in political and population geography, with a focus on countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He received a bachelor’s degree from Bucknell University and his master’s and doctorate degrees from Columbia University. Prior to joining the Office of the Geographer in 1992, Schwartz was a member of the faculty of The American University’s School of International Service. He also held research fellowships at the U.S. Census Bureau, Duke University’s East-West Center, and as a Fulbright scholar at Moscow University.

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Noam Chomsky is also an impassioned critic of American foreign policy, and of corporate and governmental power. His now classic book on the role of intellectuals in American society, American Power and the New Mandarins, greatly influenced the debate on the Vietnam War, and continues to prompt examination of the complicity of intellectuals in implementing policies of entrenched power to this day. Its arguments resonate strongly today in the context of a new war.

Chomsky studied linguistics, mathematics, and philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard, and received his PhD from U-Penn for his original and ground-breaking dissertation entitled “Transformational Analysis.” Since receiving his PhD, he has taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in what is now the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy. He has received literally hundreds of prestigious scholarly awards, honors, prizes, fellowships, distinguished professorships, and honorary degrees. It is our great honor to have him join us at the AAG’s annual meeting in Boston. I hope you will enjoy “A Conversation with Noam Chomsky.”

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Register for the 2008 AAG Annual Meeting at www.aag.org/annualmeeting.