
AAG CHINA SPECIALTY GROUP ANNUAL REPORT (May 2007 – April 2008)

I. Mission Statement

Established in 1979 at the AAG annual meeting in Philadelphia, the purpose of the China Specialty Group is to promote the study of the geography of China (including Taiwan); to serve as a clearinghouse of information for persons interested in Chinese geography; to encourage professional activities including development of research projects and dissemination of research results; and to increase contacts with China geographers outside North America.

II. Dues Information

The dues for China Specialty Group is \$5 for non-student members and \$1 for student members. Dues and interests during the last year is \$486.

III. China Specialty Group Officers (2007-08):

At its business meeting held in Boston on April 17, 2008, members of the CSG elected the following officers for a one-year-term (2007-08):

Chair: Alana Boland (University of Toronto) boland@geog.utoronto.ca	Student Representative Chuncui Velma Fan (UCLA) velmafan@ucla.edu
Vice Chair: Yu Zhou (Vassar College) yuzhou@vassar.edu	Web Master Wei Xu (University of Lethbridge) Wei.xu@uleth.ca
Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Qihao Weng (Indiana State University) qweng@indstate.edu	

IV. Membership

As of May 2008, the CSG has 206 registered members. Among the total membership, there are 89 student members and 117 non-student members. While the majority (82%) of the members are based in the United States, there are 37 members based out the US (see table below):

Country/Region	Member
Austria	1
Canada	7

China/HK/Taiwan	12
France	1
Germany	5
Japan	1
Singapore	3
Sri Lanka	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1
UAE	1
UK	3
USA	169
Total	206

V. CSG Activities

Newsletter

Two newsletters were published. The Fall issue was published in December 2007, and the Spring issue was published in May 2008. The newsletter has been a popular and effective medium for members to share news of research results, publications, conferences, grants and award. All issues of the newsletter are available on our website, www.tleth.ca/~wei/AAG_China/cgsg.htm.

Business Meeting

The CSG Business Meeting was held in Boston on April 17, 2008 in conjunction with the AAG Annual Meeting. Approximately seventy members were in attendance. After welcoming foreign members, minutes from the last year's business meeting was approved. Members then observed a moment of silence in memory of Professor C.P. Lo, a long-standing and distinguished member of the CSG who passed away on December 30, 2007. Chair reported on membership and activities of the group at the Boston meetings. This year the CSG sponsored/co-sponsored 23 paper sessions, including two key panels to facilitate dialogues between China geographers and others. We also held special sessions in memory of CP Lo.

A few small changes concerning activities of the CSG executive were discussed. The Chair will now assume duties of the Treasurer. A manual containing a list of duties for the members of the CSG executive has been created to help to institutionalize the activities of the executive. Since the CSG has a tradition of presenting awards at our business meeting and inviting winners of the awards to join our annual dinner, the executive suggested that the group pay the costs of dinner in lieu of purchasing tickets for the AAG awards luncheon. And finally, the group also discussed a proposal to have an associate partnership be formed with the journal *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. This partnership would have no obligation on both sides. No objections were raised and members endorsed the proposal.

The secretary thanked members for their help with providing content for the newsletter and the treasurer's report was delivered by the Chair. Awards were presented for outstanding service and the student paper competition. New officers were named and elected. Alana Boland became the new Chair; Yu Zhou became the Vice-Chair; and Qihao Weng was elected the new Secretary/Newsletter editor; Chuncui Velma Fan was elected the new Student Representative.

A list of topics for sessions next year was generated: China & India as 'Rising Giants'; Development on China's periphery; Western development & water transfer; Capitalism "Chinese style" & varieties of capitalism; Neoliberalism "Chinese style"; roundtable or forum on China, following on Tibet issue and the Beijing Olympics; "Entrepreneurial city" – 20 years on, as a co-sponsored panel with Urban Geography Specialty Group; invite a featured speaker on the news media and China's image; Gaming and casino culture; Tourism development (co-sponsored panel with the Tourism SG); Postmodern urban landscapes; Urban transportation (co-sponsored panel with the Transportation SG); Urbanization & environment; Megacity region: governance and planning; China's western development; Question of 'postsocialism', in comparison with Eastern Europe and Russia; Agriculture and farmers; Issues in social & cultural geography.

The meeting ended with the announcement of details for the traditional group dinner and a brief discussion about organizing a joint social with Asia Specialty group for the next AAG, in addition to a dinner.

CSG Awards

An **Outstanding Service Award** was presented to Professor C. Cindy Fan, University of California, Los Angeles (nominated by Clifton Pannell and Yehua Dennis Wei). Professor Fan has been an active member of AAG's China Geography Specialty Group for more than 20 years. Between 1991 and 1998, she served in a variety of elected positions for the specialty group, including Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-Chair, and Chair. Professor Fan has been a tireless, committed, and influential scholar whose research, service and teaching has significantly advanced the study of China geography and the China geography community. She is one of the most widely cited geographers on migration, regional development, and gender in China. Students and scholars that she mentored are among the most well-known scholars in the US, Europe and Asia. From 2001 to 2005, Cindy Fan was an editor of *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. Together with Larry Ma, Clifton Pannell other senior scholars, she pioneered efforts to broaden the journal to including high-quality papers on China and Asia. Since 2006, Cindy Fan has been an editor (the only US-based editor) of *Regional Studies*. She is also on the editorial boards of *Asian Geographer*, *China: An International Journal*, *Geographical Analysis*, and *Social Science Quarterly*. Altogether Professor Fan has been a major contributor and program builder during the last two decades to promote the study and understanding of China and its geography.

The winner of the **Best Student Paper Award** is Cassandra C. Wang, The University of Hong Kong for her paper "Emerging Geography of the ICT Industry in China: Insight from the 2004 Economic Census." The two **Travel Awards** went to Chuncui Velma Fan, University of California, Los Angeles, for her paper titled "Changing Patterns of Rural Youth Migration in China: A 1995 and 2005 Comparison," and Jenn Lee Smith, University of California, Los Angeles, for her paper titled "Gender Preference: Factors Influencing Sex Ratio Variation across Provinces in China".

Participation in the 2008 AAG Annual Meeting:

At this year's AAG meeting, China geographers were once again very active, with an extensive slate of CSG sponsored and co-sponsored sessions. Of the 23 sessions organized this year, 17 were cosponsored with at least one other specialty group. These co-sponsorships included a wide variety of speciality groups, some with whom we have partnered on multiple

occasions in the past (e.g., Asian Geography, Urban Geography, Economic Geography), as well as some specialty groups we have not yet had many opportunities to join together with (e.g., Africa Geography, Energy and Environment, Geography Education, Population). At the request of the CSG, the AAG Program Committee scheduled many of the CSG-sponsored sessions back-to-back in time and in the same meeting rooms. This made it easier for participants to attend related sessions and contributed to high attendance.

CSG Timeline

In response to a request from the AAG Central Office, a Timeline has been created and updated to present a record of the activities that CSG initiated and the contributions that members have made in promoting the study of China. There are still many gaps in the record, so we continue to ask members to send us information from the past, as well as keep us updated on recent achievements and contributions. For publications, we only include information for books, monographs and special issues of journals, but not articles (as there would be too many of them to include). A copy of the latest version of the Timeline can be accessed through the CSG webpage via the timeline link on the main webpage, http://people.uleth.ca/~wei.xu/AAG_China/cgsg.htm

VI. Research Achievements (Fall 2007 - Spring 2008)

The CSG is a dynamic specialty group. Its members are actively engaged in teaching, research and other forms of scholarly activity. For each CSG Newsletter, we invite members to submit news regarding their latest achievements and activities. In the fall of 2007, 17 members responded and in the spring of 2008, 11 members responded. The 28 members who provided information produced 8 books (single authored, co-authored, or edited), 5 book chapters and 25 refereed journal articles. Members' work has appeared in wide variety of journals including the following geography and development journals: *Regional Studies*, *Urban Studies*, *Environment and Planning B*, *Environment and Planning C*, *Urban Geography*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Cartographica*, *Economic Geography*, *World Development*, and *Papers in Regional Science*. A number of members have published their work in *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, which has become an important venue for work by China geographers. Further details on these and other achievements of CSG members can be found in our semi-annual newsletters available through the group's webpage.

VII. Financial Report

Balance in April 2007: \$2,616.42
Revenue (membership dues): \$486
Expenditure (awards): \$775
Balance at the end of March, 2008: \$2327.42

(Report prepared and submitted by Alana Boland, Chair of the CSG, May 31, 2008)