

Ethics, Justice and Human Rights Specialty Group
Association of American Geographers

2008-2009 Report for the AAG Council
(covering May 2008 through April 2009)

Submitted on 7/1/09 by Matthew L. Mitchelson, EJHR Secretary

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The Ethics, Justice and Human Rights Specialty Group of the AAG exists to further inquiry in normative issues of relevance to geography, and to facilitate collaboration between existing AAG specialty groups and committees whose areas of focus touch on these issues. The overall intent of the EJHRSG is to support inclusive and informed discussion of ethics, justice and human rights issues by geographers as a legitimate and important activity throughout the discipline.

II. DUES

Regular Dues: \$5

Student Dues: \$2

“Developing Areas” Dues: \$0

III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2008-9

Chair

Monica W. Varsanyi (2007-9)

Arizona State University

monica.varsanyi@asu.edu

Secretary

Matthew L. Mitchelson (2008-10)

University of Georgia

mmitchel@uga.edu

Newsletter Editor

Andy Walter (2004, 2005-7, 2007-10)

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Treasurer

Jeff Popke (2007-2010)

East Carolina University

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Board Members

Bill O'Brien (2008-10)
Florida Atlantic University
wobrien@fau.edu

Joseph Nevins (2007-9)
Vassar College
jonevins@vassar.edu

Gabriela Valdivia (2007-9)
University of Michigan
giv@umich.edu

Student Board Members (Appointed, 2008-9)

- David Parr, Texas State University, daveparr@txstate.edu
- Linda Quiquivix, UNC-Chapel Hill, quiqui@unc.edu
- Seth Baum, Penn State, sdb244@psu.edu
- Dan Runfola, Clark University, dansmiller@gmail.com

2009-10

(reflecting elections at the March 2009 EJHR Board meeting)

Chair

Monica W. Varsanyi (2007-9, 2009-11)
John Jay College/CUNY Graduate Center
mvarsanyi@jjay.cuny.edu

Secretary

Matt Mitchelson (2008-2010)
University of Georgia
mmitchel@uga.edu

Newsletter Editor

Andy Walter (2004, 2005-7, 2007-9, 2009-11)
University of West Georgia
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Treasurer (appointed position)

Jeff Popke (2007-2010)
East Carolina University
popkee@ecu.edu

Board Members

Patrick Heidkamp (2009-11)

Southern Connecticut State University
heidkampc1@southernct.edu

Bill O'Brien (2008-10)
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Liz Oglesby (2009-11)
University of Arizona
eoglesby@email.arizona.edu

Gabriela Valdivia (2007-9; 2009-11)
University of Michigan
giv@umich.edu

Student Board Members (Appointed, 2009-10)

- Shangrila Joshi Winn, University of Oregon, sjoshi@uoregon.edu
- Seth Baum, Penn State, sdb244@psu.edu
- Dan Runfola, Clark University, dansmiller@gmail.com

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Events and Programs, 2008-2009

2008 Events and Annual Meeting

- A newsletter was produced and distributed to members in April of 2008. All Newsletters are available at the EJHR web page.
- EJHR Sponsored 25 paper sessions at the 2008 AAG meeting in Boston, matching our record from the previous year.
- EJHR organized another highly successful plenary lecture, given by Diana Liverman (Oxford University) on the topic of global climate change and social justice. Her lecture, "Just carbon: Emissions trading offsets and the ethics of climate policy," was co-sponsored by the Climate Specialty Group and Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group.
- The EJHR launched a revamped web site (<http://www.ejhr.org/>) which was authored by Dan Runfola.
- EJHR was the first specialty group to institute a \$0 membership category for prospective members in Developing Areas.

2009 Events and Annual Meeting

- A newsletter was produced and distributed to members in March of 2009. All Newsletters are available at the EJHR web page.
- EJHR Sponsored 22 paper sessions at the 2009 AAG meeting in Las Vegas.
- EJHR organized another highly successful plenary lecture, given by Elvin Wyly (University of British Columbia) on the topic of housing finance and social justice. His lecture, "American Subprime Dilemma: Race, Risk, and Responsibility," was co-sponsored by the Urban Geography Specialty Group.
- The EJHR revived its student paper competition in 2009, under the leadership of Secretary Matt Mitchelson and Newsletter Editor Andy Walter. Sara Koopman (UBC) won this year's award with her paper, "Alter-Geopolitics: Another Geopolitics is Possible". Sara received a \$200 award to support her ongoing research.

On-going

- EJHR maintains a listserv (EJHR-L) which is hosted at East Carolina University and has 181 subscribers.

Planned Events and Programs for 2009-2010

- The EJHR is in the process of organizing a Plenary Lecture for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Washington DC. Professors Katherine Gibson and Julie Graham have agreed to give the lecture.
- EJHR will once again seek sponsorship of relevant AAG sessions next year.
- EJHR intends to produce and distribute a newsletter in the Spring. Andy Walter will head up this effort.
 - A number of initiatives were discussed at the 2009 business meeting including the expansion of the revived student paper competition and posting the winning paper on the EJHR website as a working paper, the 2010 plenary, and the publication of past plenaries online or, possibly, in an existing journal.

V. MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

At the time of completing this report, EJHR membership stands at 277. This is up almost 15% from 2008 figures. Student members comprise 59% of membership.

Session sponsorships continue to increase annually, suggesting a high level of disciplinary interest in questions of ethics, justice and human rights.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT 2007-2009

		Debit	Credit
Balance as of April, 2007:		811.62	
11/29/07	Beehive Design Collective	\$90	
1/4/08	AAG Dues		\$513
3/25/08	Diana Liverman Honorarium	\$100	
Balance as of April, 2008:		\$1,134.62	
2/3/09	AAG Dues		\$498
2/25/09	Medical Geography SP – Film Screening	\$50	

3/13/09	Barnett Rubin – Military Geography Plenary	\$100	
4/1/09	Sarah Koopman - Student Paper Competition	\$200	
4/2/09	Wendy Pedersen (from Elvin Wyly)	\$300	
Pending	Plenary Reimbursement – Urban SG		\$150
Balance as of April, 2009:		\$1132.62	

VII. SPECIAL REQUESTS OR QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

None at this time.

Ethics, Justice and Human Rights Specialty Group – Recent Activity

<u>Year (Meeting)</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Business Meeting Attendance</u>	<u>Sponsored Sessions</u>	<u>Plenary Partner</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Funds</u>
2009 (Las Vegas)	277	10	23	Urban	Elvin Wyly	\$1132.62
2008 (Boston)	244	9	25	Climate and Cultural and Political Ecology	Diane Liverman	\$1134.62
2007 (San Francisco)	232	7	25	Political	Derek Gregory	\$811.62
2006 (Chicago)	282	10	15	Urban	Cindi Katz	\$1034
2005 (Denver)	266	7	11	CAPE	Paul Robbins	\$1071
2004 (Philadelphia)	199	10	9	Cultural	Don Mitchell	\$1248
2003 (New Orleans)	121	6	4			\$667
2002 (Los Angeles)	178	6	6			\$667
2001 (New York)						

Values, Ethics & Justice	145	5	9	\$789
Human Rights	97	7	unknown	\$56