



**Developing Areas Research Group (DARG) of the Royal
Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers)**

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 30th August 2006

RGS-IBG Conference, London

Unconfirmed Minutes

Present

Oliver Coombes, Becky Elmhirst, Dorothea Kleine, Benedikt Korf, David Mandiyanike, Emma Mawdsley, Claire Mercer, Paula Meth, Giles Mohan, Elizabeth Olson, Ben Page, Sara Parker, Louise Waite, Glyn Williams, Katie Willis (DARG Chair)

1. Apologies for Absence

Elsbeth Robson

2. Minutes of AGM 2005

Agreed

3. Chair's Report

DARG Chair, Katie Willis, provided a written report, summarising DARG's activities during the past year. In brief, these were:

a. Conferences & workshops

- 4 sessions at the RGS-IBG conference 2005
- 6 sessions at the RGS-IBG conference 2006
- Joint Regional Meeting on Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment, Economy & Society at Risk? Kingston, Jamaica 24-28 July 2006.
- Postgraduate Workshop in Development Research. Held jointly with the DSA. Liverpool 31 May – 1 June 2006.

b. DARG financial support

- Postgraduate travel award: Mariela Gaete Reyes (King's College, London) for her work on disabled women's experiences in London, UK and Santiago, Chile.
- David W. Smith Memorial Prize: Kimberley Lye, Haberdashers Askes School for Girls, Hertfordshire.
- Undergraduate Dissertation Prize: Siobhan Luikham (UCL). 'Why don't the kinds go to school? A comparative study of the constraints on the achievement of free compulsory universal basic education (fCUBE) in Ghana from a household perspective'
- Postgraduate conference funding: started this year and available to all postgraduate DARG members.

- This year DARG has also provided financial support to our nominated Research Group guests for the conference: Dr Kenesh Djusipov from the Kyrgyz State Medical Academy and Dr Shahul Hameed Hasbullah from the Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

c. DARG E-Newsletter

Has proved to be a successful transition from hard copy to e-version.

d. Consultation on A Level Geography

DARG involved in consultation process regarding the redesign of the EdExcel Geography a level curriculum. Feedback provided in July 2006.

KW concluded by asking that membership and inclusion be a focus of DARG activities in the forthcoming year.

4. Treasurer's Report

Paula Meth (DARG Treasurer) provided the accounts which were agreed.

5. Forthcoming Events

a. RGS-IBG AC2007

Theme is 'Sustainability and Quality of Life'. Proposal deadline for sessions is probably going to be 1 November.

Giles Mohan proposed a session on the role of China and India in development policy & practice.

Possible joint session with the DASG of the AAG – KW to follow up.

Call for proposals will be sent out in next DARG Newsletter.

b. Undergraduate dissertation training day

Agreement that this should be run this year. Emma Mawdsley offered to be involved. Committee will have to think about appropriate timing to have maximum utility to undergraduates.

c. Teaching development geography

Has been proposed in previous years. General positive views about it. Could run it alongside the undergraduate dissertation day.

d. Other events

Agreement to use the Newsletter to encourage DARG members to propose events.

Possible setting up of DARG funding to support events. Would have a certain budget per year, deadlines and guidelines for applications.

Suggestion of links with development geography scholars in continental Europe. DARG used to be involved with Scandinavian and Dutch geographers with great mutual benefits e.g. workshops, publications.

6. DARG website & E-Newsletter

Positive comments about both these communication media. Becky Elmhirst (DARG E-newsletter Editor) encouraged all DARG members to send in news and items for distribution.

7. Elections for DARG Committee Posts

Giles Mohan elected unopposed for position on the DARG Committee.

Two other Committee posts, the post of DARG Secretary and 2 postgraduate representative posts remain unfilled. The vacancies will be advertised in DARG E-Newsletter.

8. AOB

None

9. Date of next meeting

AC2007 at the RGS-IBG

Katie Willis
DARG Chair