

Qualitative Research Specialty Group
Business meeting March 24, 2009, Las Vegas, NV

Minutes

19 people in attendance

Officers present:

Jennifer Fluri, Co-Chair

Anu Shablok, Board member

Chris McMorrان, Board member

Ladona Knigge, Treasurer

Dan Trudeau, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:14 pm

1. Minutes for 2008 business meeting approved.
2. Treasurer reports a balance of \$1,992.30 in the budget at the beginning of March 2009. After expenditures for three student awards the remaining balance is \$742.30.
3. Jennifer Fluri reported on her participation in the AAG specialty group chairs meeting. Notable details include:
 - a. AAG plans to conduct a website overhaul in the fall of 2009.
 - b. The AAG has developed a handbook to assist the management and operation of specialty groups. In particular, it was discussed that the handbook covers details concerning how to interface with the AAG website in order to monitor income and manage expenditures for individual specialty groups.
 - c. Specialty groups will not charge a fee for the developing regions membership to AAG
 - d. International memberships such as Canadian Geog and UK (IBG) will be sent a follow-up email about AAG specialty groups and how to become a specialty group member.
 - e. Next year at the AAG meetings in order to reduce the number of sessions, registrants will be limited to 2 possible forms of participation (i.e. 1 paper or poster and 1 panel session).
4. Meghan Cope reported that efforts to update the website are ongoing. The website offers an important way to record the institutional memory of the specialty group. Annual reports, newsletters, meeting minutes, and announcements are recorded here. Additional resources including the qualitative research bibliography, the history of the specialty group, and course syllabi are made available on the website.

A draft and incomplete version of the specialty group's history will also be made available on the website.

Cope invited more members to submit of course syllabi. She also suggested that that current bibliographic research technology obviates the need to maintain a current bibliography. Group discussion on this idea suggested that a current bibliography is valuable to members.

Dan Trudeau suggested that both the specialty group history and the qualitative research bibliography could be maintained and updated through a wiki, allowing group members to add content. He agreed to investigate ways in which such a feature could be added to the website.

5. Members elected six new officers for the following positions in the specialty group:
Co-chairs (2009-2011): Susan Mains & Deb Martin
Board Members (2009-2011): Melinda Alexander, Kari Jensen, Hilda Kurtz, & Harold Perkins
Note: the group unanimously approved the election of four board members to serve for the 2009-2011 term because of a tied vote between two of the candidates.
6. The Awards Committee selected winners for research proposals at both the MA and Phd levels. The Committee received 33 proposals at the Phd level and 11 proposals at the MA level. The Committee also noted the superb quality of many proposals making the award very competitive and the selection difficult.

A PhD award (\$500) was given to Celia (Luna) Vives-Gonzalez , University of British Columbia, for her project, entitled "Negotiating Boundaries, gendered transnationalism from Sengal to Spain."

A Masters award (\$250) was given to Kate Skaggs, College of Charleston, for her project, entitled "Implications of emerging neoliberal politics on the conversations governance in the South Carolina Low Country."

Neither of the award recipients were able to attend the awards banquet, which made additional money available. The group unanimously agreed to give a second award at the PhD level.

The Awards Committee gave another PhD award (\$500) Joomi Lee, University of Texas, Austin, for her project entitled "Constructing a New Medieval City in Morocco: Politics of Medina Revitalization and the Geographies of Discrimination."

7. Jennifer Fluri reported that the 2009 annual report is available on the qualitative research specialty group website.
8. Geoff Deverteuil, Chris McMorran, and Anu Shablok volunteered for the 2010 Awards Committee, with Deverteuil serving as its chair.
9. The group unanimously passed a motion to form a subcommittee that will plan events to recognize the 10th anniversary of the specialty group at the 2010 annual meeting of the AAG. Meghan Cope, Jennifer Fluri, LaDona Knigge, Hilda Kurtz, & Harold Perkins volunteered for this subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm