

2020 Annual Report

Transportation Geography Specialty Group (TGSG) of the Association of American Geographers

7 September 2021

I. Review of Statement

Mission Statement: To encourage and facilitate interactions among individuals who are interested in research, practice, and education of transportation-related topics.

Dues Information: \$10 (students, \$2)

Homepage: <http://aag-tgsg.org>

II. Officers

Our officer list is below. Due to the pandemic, we decided not to hold elections to replace our one departing board member, and instead granted a temporary, 1-year extension of Yujie Hu's term.

Chair: Bradley Lane (2-year term ending Spring 2021)
School of Public Affairs and Administration
The University of Kansas
Snow Hall 217
1450 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045
Tel: 785.864.6861
bwlane@ku.edu

Vice Chair: Isabelle Nilsson (2-year term ending Spring 2021)
Department of Geography & Earth Sciences
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28223
Tel: 704.687.5954
inilss01@uncc.edu

Board members:

1- Yujie Hu (1-year temporary extension, ending Spring 2021)
Department of Geography

University of Florida
3141 Turlington Hall
330 Newell Dr.
Gainesville, FL
Tel: 352.294.7514
yhu@usf.edu

2- Scott Kelley (2-year term ending Spring 2021)
Department of Geography
University of Nevada, Reno
Mackay Science 224
1664 N. Virginia St
Reno, NV 89557
Tel: 775.784.6995
scottkelley@unr.edu

3- Kevin Kane (2-year term ending Spring 2021)
Southern California Association of Governments
Department of Research and Analysis
900 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Tel: 213.236.1828
kevin@kevinkane.org

4- Rafael Pereira (2-year term ending Spring 2021)
Department of Urban, Regional and Environmental studies and policies
Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea) Brazil
Setor Bancário Sul Q. 1 Ed. BNDES.
Zip code: 70076-900, Brasília, DF, Brazil
Tel: (55)(61)9990-70512
rafael.pereira@ipea.gov.br

Student representatives:

1- Jessica Villena-Sánchez (2-year term ending Spring 2021)
Department of Geography and the Environment
University of Denver
Denver, CO
Jessica.villenasanchez@du.edu

2- Elina Sukaryavichute (2-year term ending Spring 2021)
Department of Geography & Earth Sciences
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Charlotte, NC
esukarya@uncc.edu

III. Accomplishments

Due to the sudden onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the business meeting was held several weeks after the virtual 2020 meeting. There, we proceeded with going over the awards, as well as overviewing the potential impacts of the pandemic on the virtual conference as well as its implications for future conferences.

We awarded the **Edward L. Ullman Award** for Significant Contributions to Transportation Geography to Professor in the [Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science](#) at the University of Illinois. Dr. Cidell's research areas include urban transport and mobilities, freight transport and distribution, railroads, air transport and airport development, and highways and automobility. Among transport geographers, she has spearheaded efforts to link transport geography with mobilities and urban studies as expressed by her 2015 co-edited book [Transport, Mobility, and the Production of Urban Space \(Routledge\)](#), and her textbook *An Introduction to Transportation Geography: Transport, Mobility, and Place* (Rowman and Littlefield). Her 2016 article, "Developing a framework for the spaces and spatialities of transportation and mobilities," published in the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* develops a theoretical structure that incorporates transport geography and mobilities into one framework. In addition to publishing numerous articles in mainstream transport journals, she has also published across a wide range of other academic journals including *Mobilities*, *Social and Cultural Geography*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *Area*, *Social Geography*, and *Critical Planning Journal*. Altogether, in addition to her two books, Dr. Cidell is the author or co-author of 33 refereed journal articles, 11 book chapters, 48 invited presentations, and 43 conference presentations. Dr. Cidell was a board member of the TGSG from 2001-2006, was chair from 2010-2012, and has served on the editorial board of the [Journal of Transport Geography](#) since 2011. She was treasurer and executive councilor of the AAG from 2016 to 2018 and the West Lakes Regional Councilor from 2015 to 2018. Her dissertation was honored by the TGSG in 2004 and was a finalist for the Nystrom award. Dr. Cidell's work as an educator preparing the next generation of geographers at Illinois has included very popular *Transportation and Sustainability*, *Cities of the World*, and *Digital Earth* courses, along with graduate and undergraduate seminars in mobilities and urban sustainability. She is scheduled to deliver the 2021 Fleming Lecture at that year's AAG annual meeting, to be held in Seattle.

Our **student paper awards** went to Joris Beckers for the Ph.D. Dissertation award with a dissertation entitled "The Logistics Sector in a Consumer Driven Society: Essays on Location and Network Structure," supervised by Ann Verhetsel, University of Antwerp. The Master's Thesis Award went to Yun-Hsuan Chen with a thesis entitled "Determinants of Flight Delays in East Asia: Airport, Route, and Network," supervised by Jen-Jia Lin, National Taiwan University. **Travel awards** were granted to Aimee Krafft University of Nevada-Reno and Elina

Sukaryavichute, University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

When Professor Douglas Fleming retired from teaching at the University of Washington after a pioneering career in transportation geography (and his earlier career in merchant shipping) in 1992, the Department of Geography decided to sponsor a distinguished lecture at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. This lectureship is designed to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of transportation geography. The 2020 **Fleming Lecture** in Transportation Geography was to be given by Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Professor in the Department of Global Studies & Geography at Hofstra University, with Dr. Andrew Goetz of the Department of Geography and the Environment to serve as a discussant. However, Dr. Rodrigue and the Board decided to postpone the lecture until 2021 in Seattle so that it may given in person, and in concert with the 2021 Fleming Lecture. Additionally, we were to hold our first-ever reception in honor of the Fleming Lecture, however this has been postponed to the 2021 meeting due to the pandemic.

IV. Membership and Participation

As of March 5, 2020, our membership count is around 275. Originally, there were TGSG sponsored or co-sponsored 37 paper sessions including the Fleming Lecture, as well as a field trip organized by Andy Goetz and Keith Ratner of Transit-Oriented Development in Denver. However, the pandemic resulted in the cancellation of most of these. There were four TGSG sponsored or co-sponsored virtual sessions. These included:

- [Assessment and Mitigation of Hydrometeorological Impacts on Surface Transportation I](#)
Organized by Alan Black and Curtis Walker
- [Critical Geographies of Transport and Mobility I: Society and Culture](#)
Organized by Julie Cidell, Wojciech Keblowski, and Wladimir Sgibnev
- [Critical Geographies of Transport and Mobility II: Governance](#)
Organized by Julie Cidell, Wojciech Keblowski, and Wladimir Sgibnev
- [Accessibility, mobility, and connectivity: Frontiers of geospatial modeling and applications](#)
Organized by Xiang Chen

V. Future Activities

As of the end of 2020, future plans are very much up in the air for the TGSG. We are waiting to see what the impact of the pandemic will be on the meeting plans for 2021 in Seattle. Whether or not the conference is in-person or virtual will determine field trips, attendance, budgets, etc.

VI. Financial Report

Our annual financial report follows. Note that we increased dues to \$10 in 2019 to facilitate funding for a reception after the Fleming Lecture. Also note that the date processed does not yet include payouts for the 2020 award winners.

Association of American Geographers
Specialty Groups Financial Report
March 31, 2020

Transportation Specialty Group

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Receipts</u> | <u>Disbursements</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 8/31/19 | <i>Balance forward</i> | | | \$ 3,521.96 |
| 9/30/19 | Dues collected for Sept 2019 | 68.00 | | 3,589.96 |
| 10/31/19 | Dues collected for Oct 2019 | 490.00 | | 4,079.96 |
| 11/30/19 | Dues collected for Nov. 2019 | 138.00 | | 4,217.96 |
| 12/31/19 | Dues collected for Dec. 2019 | 62.00 | | 4,279.96 |
| 1/31/20 | Dues collected for Jan. 2020 | 34.00 | | 4,313.96 |
| 2/29/20 | Dues collected for Feb 2020 | 42.00 | | 4,355.96 |
| 3/31/20 | Dues collected for March 2020 | 52.00 | | 4,407.96 |
| 03/31/20 | Balance | | | \$4047.96 |

Appendix

Minutes for Transportation Specialty Group Meeting, AAG April 20, 2020

Meeting notes (Zoom, 4/20/2020)

(Virtually) Present: Bradley Lane, Elina Sukaryavichute, Jessica Sanchez, Scott Kelley, Yujie Hu, Michael Minn, Kevin Kane, Rafael Pereira, Isabelle Nilsson

1. Follow-up items re: Denver 2020
 - a. 2020 awardees:
 - Bradley make sure that they receive their plaques and monetary awards
 - Travel awards still given out as monetary awards
 - Awardees will be recognized at our 2021 meeting in Seattle

- Bradley will send out an announcement about the winners, begin to have their plaques made, process their awards thru AAG, and request pictures be taken with advisor, friends, family, etc. for the website with the award

b. 2020 Fleming Lecture:

- Both Jean-Paul Rodrigue (2019 Ullman Award Winner) and Andy Goetz (2020 Fleming Discussant) preferred the idea of giving the lecture in Seattle next year and supported the idea of two Fleming lectures in 2021 (one for Jean-Paul, one for 2020 winner Julie Cidell)

- Discussed idea of reducing time of presentations and tie them together in one session (e.g., have the two discussants and two presenters on some sort of panel after the presentations). Will reach out to both presenters to solicit their input and ideas.

- Build in short coffee intermission between the two lectures

- Board in favor of having one big reception tied to both lectures

c. 2020 Board positions and elections:

- Yujie's position was supposed to be voted on at our business meeting in Denver. Yujie had expressed interest to Bradley in staying on/running for re-election. Board voted in favor of extending Yujie's position for another year.

- That means that every single position in TGSG (4 Board, 1 Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, 2 student representatives) would be up for election next year and every two years afterward. Concerns were raised regarding every other year's meeting possibly becoming relatively more important and lack of continuity on the board. Board circled idea of asking a couple of board members to stay on for an extra year during next year's meeting as a one-off solution (as opposed to extending terms to 3-years) to get elections staggered. Will consult bylaws if this is a possibility. Also discussed posting bylaws to website to make them more accessible in the future.

- Discussed student positions and possibly maybe instituting a one-year and a two-year position. In this way there is some continuity (2-year position) but also allows new student representatives to come on board (particularly master students) to build their resumes and make connections.

- Will present these two ideas at next year's meeting and open up for members to vote.

- As for continuity and ease of transition, Bradley is hoping to put together a “handbook”/document with list of responsibilities for each position (particularly Chair’s position) that can be passed on in future.

- Bradley reports that it is at this point unclear what impact COVID-19 may have on budget of potential membership changes, future meeting costs, etc.

d. Other items

- Board discussed experiences from virtual meeting and the possibility of offering a hybrid between virtual and in-person going forward. AAG has already been making such developments.

- Discussed Twitter and other social media accounts (try to incorporate Instagram and Facebook as well to reach bigger audience). Ideas were circled about sending out calls to knowledge community page, asking members to tag the specialty group (@AAG_TGSG) as well as send content to be shared on our social media accounts. Board decided to continue discussion regarding social media presence in a follow-up meeting a month or two from now.

2. Upcoming items

a. TGSG Budget:

- Bradley will produce a budget report and follow up on reception costs which was a concern.

b. Annual report:

i. Bradley will reach out to AAG about format, changes, etc re: COVID-19

ii. Bradley will follow-up with Membership report, budget report, report from AAG Council (no council meeting was held this year, waiting to hear if that will change), he also plans to catalog both our planned in-person sessions and our virtual ones, to catalog awardees and elections.

c. Journal of Transport Geography Report

i. Bradley will reach out to Frank Witlox, Ed-in-Chief, to catalog journal performance

d. Communications report

e. 2021 meeting plans

- Board agreed to hold an extra virtual meeting in a few months/closer to 2021 meeting to figure out any adjustments needed for that meeting (e.g., social distancing and/or room size requirements, virtual/in-person hybrid, etc.). Waiting for guidelines/announcements from AAG about potential adjustments due to COVID-19. Will also discuss potential field trips, session themes, plans to coordinate any 2020 sessions into 2021, etc.