

Transportation Geography Specialty Group Report 2023

As the academic year comes to an end, I am happy to report on the state of the Transportation Geography Specialty Group (TGSG) of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) for 2023, particularly on the events during this year's successful meeting. During the AAG Annual Meeting in Denver in March of 2023, TGSG sponsored and co-sponsored a number of very engaging lectures, sessions, symposia, and our award ceremony during the business meeting. Our group has maintained a stable number of members the last couple of years. This year we had 275 members split between regular and student members. This is down from pre-pandemic levels (335 members in 2019). We suspect that the drop has a lot to do with the pandemic and the annual meeting being held virtually the past couple of years and post-pandemic conference attendance trends. Big thanks go to our community for motivating students and colleagues to join and be a part of TGSG. We encourage everyone to continue these efforts to keep our membership growing.

A TGSG tradition has been to honor students for their outstanding work. This year four students received this honor. Dr. Qiao Si from the University of Hong Kong was granted the Ph.D. Dissertation Award for their dissertation entitled "*Understanding ride-hailing and inventing future transit: Pathways to spatial justice*" supervised by Anthony Gar-On Yeh. The Master's Thesis Award was awarded to Gregorio Costa Luz de Souza Lima from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro for their thesis "*Understanding transport-related social exclusion through the lens of capabilities approach: Does better accessibility help to reduce social exclusion?*" supervised by Licinio da Silva Portugal. Travel awards were granted to Yaxuan Zhang from the University of Minnesota and Rongxiang Su from University of California. Submissions are encouraged for next year's awards.

The Edward L. Ullman Award, the most prestigious award offered by TGSG, which recognizes a transport geographer's contributions to the field went to Dr. Mark Horner, Professor of Geography at Florida State University (FSU) where he has served on the faculty since 2004. He earned his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in 2002 where his dissertation focused on Urban Commuting under the supervision of Dr. Morton O'Kelly. Since then, he has proven himself a leader in the field, publishing close to 100 peer-reviewed journal articles in leading transportation and urban geography journals, accruing over 5600 citations, and making notable teaching and service contributions to the field. Dr. Horner's early work on spatial considerations of commuting including jobs-housing relationships and excess commuting is highly cited, sustained, and well-regarded in the discipline. His background in quantitative geography and, notably, spatial optimization, brought a new dimension to this research - a thread that expands to other research themes as well. He and colleagues – including some notable graduate advisees - have also published widely in the area of evaluation modeling and in the distribution of goods distribution with respect to natural disasters. His collaborations with his Ph.D. advisee, Joni Downs, was a unique blending of transport geography – especially movement and GPS trajectories and GIScience applied to animal and wildlife applications. Most recently, he has collaborated extensively with researchers from urban and transport planning to develop a well-funded agenda addressing Florida's aging population and associated, planning-related challenges. Collectively, his various research themes have each made an imprint on their respective subject

areas, bringing a spatial and spatial analytical perspective to them. His regard as a researcher led him to serve as Associate Dean for Research at FSU. With respect to service to our field, Dr. Horner has acted as the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the highly respected journal *Transportation* since 2013, along with serving on several other editorial review boards, including the *Journal of Transport Geography*. He has also acted as a leader in the Social and Economic Factors and Transportation and Land Development sections of the Transportation Research Board, representing geographic perspectives amongst that interdisciplinary group of transportation scholars and professionals. Finally, his list of journals for which he has provided a peer review is admirable; he has undoubtably helped to shape our discipline through this extensive feedback.

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 American Association of Geographers. This lectureship is designed to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of transportation geography. Due to the pandemic, the Fleming Lecture honorees from 2019, 2000, 2021, and 2022 deferred their presentations until the next in-person conference. The 2023 AAG meetings therefore featured two Fleming Lectures with an impressive line-up of speakers: one with the 2019 winner Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue and the 2020 winner Dr. Julie Cidell, and one with the 2021 winner Dr. Selima Sultana and the 2022 winner David Banister. Dr. Andy Goetz served as the discussant for the first session and Dr. Joe Weber served as the discussant for the second lecture. The second session of Fleming Lectures was followed by a reception. We look forward to Dr. Horner's Fleming Lecture at the 2024 Annual Meeting!

All together the TGSG sponsored and co-sponsored 23 in-person and 6 virtual sessions at the 2023 AAG Annual meeting. Several of these sessions were on the topic of transport equity and justice, organized by a group of TGSG members. Other sessions included topics such as emerging vehicle technologies, data driven approaches for transportation planning and analysis, and sustainable transportation. We hope to have a variety of sponsored sessions and field trips in Hawaii in 2024.

Our website can be found at <http://aag-tgsg.org/>. Thanks to Dr. Michael Minn for his continued worked on managing the website. Thanks go also to Huyen Le and Rafael Pereira for managing our Twitter account @AAG_TGSG.

We encourage everyone to submit proposals for sessions, field trips, and nominations for awards for next year's meeting, as well as any other information relevant to our group that people would like to share via our website and/or Twitter account. Hope to see you all next year in Hawaii!

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