

**Cultural Geography Study Group
Report for 2006-2007**

Office bearers:

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There are now two *Deputy Convenors* of the group:

Dr Chris Gibson (outgoing)
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and

Dr Scott Sharpe (incoming)
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There has been no receipt of funds from the IAG for the period since the last report.

During the 2007 IAG conference CGSG members are swinging into action as session convenors and presenters involving upwards of forty papers. The Group's sessions comprise:

1. Geographies of Care
2. Geographies of Sexuality and Gender 'Down Under'
3. Observant Geographies (Geographies of visuality)
4. Water crisis? Socio-cultural and environmental dimensions of water and rivers (Co-sponsored by: IAG Environmental Sustainability Study Group)
5. Rural Cultural Studies: exploring historical and geographical perspectives (Co-sponsored by: IAG Rural Geography Study Group and ARC Cultural Research Network)
6. The spatter project (Geographies of materiality)

These 6 sessions are set to cover a number of vibrant areas of current scholarship in the subdiscipline. Co-sponsorship with other IAG Study Groups and with external groups such as the ARC-CRN is an especially pleasing trend, and one that the Group will work to continue into the future.

Since last report the CGSG has developed a coherent and current email list of members. The advent of this list has assisted in the dissemination of information about the Melbourne IAG conference, and has also facilitated communication and coordination between group members attending overseas conferences (the recent AAG in San Francisco most notably). In future it is hoped that this list may also be used to disseminate additional information about smaller conferences of direct relevance to Australian cultural geographers, as well as assist in the coordination of other sorts of events (e.g. the promotion of appearances by visiting scholars to Australia, members' book launches, etc.). The convenor is currently investigating the costs involved in automating this list.

Funding may be sought in 2007-2008 to assist in the updating, enhancement and further promotion of CGSG 'Directory of Expertise'. At present the discrepancy between IAG members who have expressed an interest in the study group (numbering around 100) and the number listed in the directory is significant. Standardising and expanding the entries of experts, and the addition links to individual home pages would significantly enhance this resource and potentially allow for broader community recognition and interaction. Obviously anyone employed by the CGSG to undertake this work such work would need access and close liaison with those responsible for the larger IAG website.

It is likely that the remainder of 2007 and early 2008 will be spent calling for, promoting and organising the group's sessions for the Hobart IAG 2008. Another possible use of funding would be to support a keynote cultural geographer to attend and present in Hobart next July. These (and no doubt other) future plans will be canvassed with group members at the CGSG Business Meeting on Tuesday July 3.

Rachel Hughes