

Economic Geography Study Group Report for 2005-2006

Officer bearers (Co-convenors)

Phillip O'Neill, University of Newcastle, phillip.oneill@newcastle.edu.au
Bog Fagan, Macquarie University, rfagan@els.mq.edu.au
Elissa Sutherland, Monash University, elissa.sutherland@arts.monash.edu.au

Special Issue of *Geographical Research*

A special edition of *Geographical Research* (volume 43, number 1, March 2005) has been published. This issue drew on papers presented to a workshop on Neoliberalism and Australia's Regions which the Study Group organised jointly with the IAG's Rural Studies Study Group in Newcastle in November 2003. The issue was jointly edited by Phillip O'Neill and Neil Argent.

Workshop on Postcolonial Geographies

The Economic Geography Study Group held a workshop on "Postcolonial Geographies" at Tusculum Villa, the offices of the NSW chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects at Potts Point in Sydney. The workshop was held over two days on April 6 and 7 this year and was combined with postgraduate training activities. About 25 participants were involved. The workshop centred on contributions from two leading international geographers, Professor Susan Roberts from the University of Kentucky and Professor Katharine Rankin from the University of Toronto. Also dropping in was Donald McNeill from Queen Mary College London. The workshop was jointly hosted by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Newcastle and the Department of Human Geography at Macquarie University. Financial assistance was gratefully received from the IAG.

IGU Brisbane

The Study Group is hosting sessions at the IGU in conjunction with the New Zealand economic geographers and with the IGU Commission on Industrial Systems. The overall theme is the "Dynamics of Economic Spaces" and will feature sessions on: industries as spaces of governance; mediated modelling approaches to economic geography; beyond the new industrial divide: corporatisation and concentration in production and consumption activities; and labour market change.

A special feature of the IGU for economic geographers—and the wider geographic community—is the special guest lecture by Professor Eric Sheppard from the University of Minnesota. Eric will speak on Critical Geography's Quandaries. The paper examines the dangers for geographical scholarship presented by our neoliberalising institutions. It examines the legacy of Anglo-American and European approaches to social theory, criticism of these from post-colonial writers and offers a commentary on the scholarship practices that are urgently needed.

Phillip O'Neill