

## **Economic Geography Study Group Report for 2006-2007**

### **Officer bearers (Co-convenors)**

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### **Follow-up on Workshop on Postcolonial Geographies**

The Economic Geography Study Group held a workshop on "Postcolonial Geographies" at Potts Point in Sydney over two days in April 2006 with financial assistance from the IAG. A symposium of papers from the workshop is in preparation for *Geographical Research*.

### **IGU Brisbane**

The Study Group is hosted sessions at the IGU in conjunction with the New Zealand economic geographers and with the IGU Commission on Industrial Systems. The overall theme of the sessions was "Dynamics of Economic Spaces" and featured 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 -- was the special guest lecture by Professor Eric Sheppard from the University of Minnesota. Eric spoke on Critical Geography's Quandaries with commentaries by Bob Fagan (Macquarie), Pauline M<sup>c</sup>Guirk (Newcastle) and Phillip O'Neill (Western Sydney). Eric examined the dangers for geographical scholarship presented by our neoliberalising institutions. It examined the legacy of Anglo-American and European approaches to social theory, criticism of these from post-colonial writers and offered a commentary on the scholarship practices that are now urgently needed. Eric's talk and the commentaries are being collected for publication later this year.

### **Activities 2007 and 2008**

The Study Group will meet at the Annual Meeting in Melbourne to consider activities for the remainder of 2007 and 2008.

### **Finances**

The Study Group has not received or spent any income on activity since its last report to the IAG in Brisbane 2006.

Phillip O'Neill