



The Source – Fall 2009  
Newsletter of the Water Resources Specialty Group  
Association of American Geographers

## Message from the Chair

Greetings;

Hope you all had a productive and restful summer. As we prepare for the 2010 annual AAG meeting in Washington D.C., I would like to call your attention to the following matters:

First, nominations for Distinguished Career Award in Water Resources due Oct.31, 2009. Our last Distinguished Career Award in Water Resources went to the renowned geographer, Professor Gilbert White in 2001. This year we will resume our Distinguished Career Award in Water Resources. Please publicize this award and nominate those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to water resources to our Award Committee by Oct. 31, 2009. For detailed nomination procedure, please visit our website (<http://www.esu.edu/~shu/wrsg/Awards/DistinguishedCareer2010.html>) or contact Dr. Laura J. Stroup, Chair of the WRSG Award Committee, at Texas State University-San Marcos, [LJStroup@txstate.edu](mailto:LJStroup@txstate.edu) with any questions.

Second, Student Participation at the 2010 AAG meeting. Our WRSG continues to provide student travel grant and student paper and research proposal awards. Please encourage your students to apply. Details of the application are listed at our website (<http://www.esu.edu/~shu/wrsg/>).

Third, WRSG paper and illustrated paper sessions. Water is becoming a more important topic at the AAG meetings now. Let's continue our tradition by organizing a series of quality paper and illustrated paper sessions for next year's AAG meeting. Please start early and use the AAG Specialty Group News and Discussion Forums to spread the topics, objectives, and intended audience of your sessions in order to generate adequate interest and responses to your postings.

Please send me your comments, suggestions and questions regarding our WRSG. Together we will make the WRSG a stronger, better, and more attractive forum and home for all of us. See you all in Washington D.C. next April.

Dr. Chansheng He, Professor  
Chair, Water Resources Specialty Group  
Department of Geography  
Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5424

September 9, 2009

## 2010 AAG WRSB Sponsored Sessions and Calls for Papers

### Politics of River Water Resources

Organizer: Sya Burya Kedzior (University of Kentucky)

WRSB and the session's chair hope to assemble a selection of papers that examine the political dimensions of river water resources from a variety of approaches and in various contexts. We are particularly interested in representing current research being performed by both novice student and experienced scholars.

Papers might explore, but are not limited to:

- Politics of river water resource development;
- Governance of river water resources;
- International and domestic hydro-politics;
- Community-based water management politics;
- River water management policy;
- Neoliberalization of river water resources;
- Transboundary river water disputes;
- Politics of river water scarcity and/or water quality;
- Geopolitics of dams and other large-scale hydrodevelopment projects; and
- Many, many more...

Please send a brief abstract of your paper to Sya Burya Kedzior (syakedzior@gmail.com) before October 22nd, 2009.

### Human Impacts on Watershed Processes

In addition to WRSB, this session is sponsored by the AAG Geomorphology, and Mountain Geography Specialty Groups.

Co-Organizers: Shixiong (Shawn) Hu), East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, and Yong Q. Tian, University of Massachusetts at Boston

The Sponsoring groups and the organizers invite paper submissions for the 2010 AAG meeting in Washington, D.C. for the session "Human Impacts on Watershed Processes". We seek papers that examine the impacts of human landscape disturbances (such as land use/land cover change

from urbanization or resource extraction, livestock grazing, etc.) or “natural” disturbances that may be facilitated or augmented by human activities (e.g., wildfire, invasive plants, and floods) on the hydrological, ecological or geomorphic processes at watershed scale. Papers that use modeling to study these watershed processes are also encouraged. This session will be oral presentations.

To participate in the session:

- Register and submit your paper abstract online at:  
<http://aag.org/annualmeetings/2010/index.htm>
- Email your presenter identification number (PIN), paper title, and abstract to Shixiong (Shawn) Hu ([shu@po-box.esu.edu](mailto:shu@po-box.esu.edu)) or Yong Q. Tian ([Yong.Tian@umb.edu](mailto:Yong.Tian@umb.edu)) by Tuesday, October 27, 2010

Any inquires, notices of intention to submit, or questions are welcome.

A PDF flyer for the session is also available at

<http://www.esu.edu/~shu/AAG2010-Watershed.pdf>

### [Interdisciplinary perspectives on environmental justice in New Mexico](#)

organizer: Eric Perramond (Colorado College)

Discussant: Jake Kosek

Presenters: David Correia, Melanie Stansbury, Vanessa Mazal , Eric Perramond

Geographic research on New Mexico, and the Southwest in general, is fairly extensive but largely focused on aspects of deep historical conflicts or cultural identity. This session brings together new perspectives on a familiar region with a focus on environmental justice, largely writ. While most research in New Mexico has been thematically based on the land grants issue, and the consequent loss of local access to forest and grazing lands, little work on water, conflict resolution, and planning-development aspects exists in the geographic literature. This group of presenters includes geographers, a sociologist, and an anthropologist for critical discussion and presentations of more recent and pressing issues including the struggle for rural development and recent turmoil regarding water resources, water rights, and their fair distribution.

### [The political geographies of river basin governance.](#)

Organizers: Eve Vogel, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and Kate Berry, University of Nevada, Reno

Discussant: Kate Berry, University of Nevada Reno (Geography)

Presenters: Eve Vogel, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Geosciences); Coleen Fox, Dartmouth College (Geography); Larry Swatuk, University of Waterloo (International Development Program); and Aaron Wolfe, Oregon State University (Geosciences)

In the last twenty years or so, thousands of river and water governance efforts have been launched around the world that are organized around the geography of river basins and watersheds. This global phenomenon is a response to a fundamental challenge to protecting river resources and systems: rivers flow across political and other human boundaries. Optimists hope political divisions can be overcome; pessimists worry that political divisions too often undermine river basin management entirely. Some analysts – often from political science and policy disciplines – evaluate the effectiveness of different institutional setups. Critics from political ecology and allied fields have traced ties between river basin and watershed management efforts and exploitative social power structures and relationships. In all this work, however, there has been insufficient analysis of how political geographies influence long-term river basin management practice.

In this panel we ask researchers at the interface of political geography, water policy and political ecology to help us think through the questions: What role does river basin geography play in river basin governance and management practice? How do the geographies and politics of traditional jurisdictions interact with new governance geographies and institutions to produce patterns of policy and management, to influence who participates, what river uses are emphasized, and who benefits? How do these policy and political interactions grapple with interconnected hydrologies, geomorphologies and ecologies? What do particular case studies tell us, and what patterns can we see across case studies? What further research is needed to help us understand? We are especially interested in relatively formal institutions of governance, and relatively large river basins that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

## **2010 AAG WRSB Call for Call for Illustrated Papers/Posters:**

### [Water Resources in Physical and Human Geography](#)

This illustrated paper/poster session is organized and sponsored by the AAG's Water Resources Specialty Group. We seek to highlight research on any facet of water resources by students of both physical and human geography. Presenters will display a poster (4' x 8') illustrating their research or project, and provide a short (3- to 5-minute) oral summary of the problem, data, method, and findings presented in the poster, followed by discussion at the poster. Students participating in the session are encouraged, but are not required, to submit their illustrated paper for competition in the 2010 WRSB Illustrated Paper Student Awards (see guidelines below).

Please send a brief abstract of your illustrated paper to Sya Buryn Kedzior (syakedzior@gmail.com) before October 22nd, 2009.

Listed below are the guidelines for 2010 and subsequent year awards. Applicants must follow these submission guidelines.

1. Poster abstracts from students must be submitted by the deadline (see #2 below). Successful competitors will meet all criteria listed below. The competition winners will be announced during the Business Meeting of the Water Resources Specialty Group (WRSBG) at the Annual AAG Meeting.
2. **DEADLINE.** The deadline for submitting an illustrated paper abstract for this WRSBG competition coincides with the abstract submission deadline for the 2010 AAG Annual Meeting in Washington DC: **October 28, 2010** (abstracts must be *received* by the WRSBG by this date). [See #10 below for additional details regarding abstract submission to the WRSBG.]
3. **LEVEL OF COMPETITION.** Awards will be given at two levels assuming that submissions are of acceptably high quality: Undergraduate and Graduate. There will be a maximum of two awards of \$100 each, one per category.
4. **PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS.** (a) Applicants for the Undergraduate or Graduate level awards must present their illustrated paper at the Annual AAG Meeting; (b) The presenter acknowledges that the illustrated paper CANNOT be submitted for any other awards from an AAG Specialty Group; (c) Applicants must present their illustrated paper in a session organized by the Water Resources Specialty Group at the Annual Meeting (see #10 below for additional details).
5. **LEVEL AND TIMELINESS.** The level of competition, whether Undergraduate or Graduate, is determined by the student status at the time the abstract was submitted to the AAG. However, any submitted illustrated paper must have been prepared within ONE YEAR immediately preceding the date of the Annual AAG Meeting.
6. **THEME.** The illustrated paper must focus on a **water or water resources** theme that is clearly related to the discipline of **Geography**. The illustrated paper should represent original research by the student and be **completed at the time of presentation** (i.e. proposed work is not appropriate for this competition). Illustrated papers may have multiple student authors; the first author is responsible for meeting competition requirements. Only the first author is eligible for an award. While the student must be the first author, faculty may be co-authors.
7. **FORMAT.** The illustrated paper must meet size requirements for presentation at the Annual AAG Meeting. An Abstract is required. The abstract must not exceed 250 words and should be placed at the beginning of the illustrated paper, immediately following the title and author's name and just before the main text. The abstract may be single-spaced.
8. **COVER LETTER.** A cover letter from the student must accompany the submitted illustrated paper abstract. The letter must clearly state that the illustrated paper is being submitted for the Student Poster Competition of the Water Resources Specialty Group. The cover letter must include the author's full name, address, day and evening phone numbers, e-mail address, college or university where the student is enrolled, the department of the "major," and whether the illustrated paper is being submitted at the Undergraduate or Graduate level.
9. **LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT.** A letter of endorsement must accompany the submitted illustrated paper abstract and cover letter. A faculty member who is a current, paid-up AAG member, who has discussed the proposed contents of the illustrated paper with the student (i.e., the research), and who supports the illustrated paper as a submission for this competition, must write this letter. The endorsement letter must clearly state that the individual submitting the illustrated paper is indeed a student, must confirm the level of submission (Undergraduate or Graduate) and must confirm that the illustrated paper will be presented at the Annual AAG meeting.
10. **SUBMISSION PROCESS.** After the illustrated paper abstract has been submitted for the Annual AAG Meeting in the Individual Registration section of the AAG web site (by October 16, 2008), the AAG-assigned PIN number (i.e. the abstract registration number) and a copy of the illustrated paper abstract should be sent to Dr. **Laura J. Stroup** (see #12 below). Three (3) hard copies of the illustrated paper abstract or one (1) complete electronic copy of the illustrated paper abstract must be submitted.
11. **QUESTIONS.** For questions regarding the Student Illustrated Paper Competition please contact Dr. **Laura J. Stroup**, WRSBG Awards Chair, via *E-mail at* [LJStroup@txstate.edu](mailto:LJStroup@txstate.edu).

12. ***Submit all materials to:***  
**Dr. Laura J. Stroup,**  
**Chair of the WRSG Award Committee**  
**Department of Geography**  
**Texas State University-San Marcos**  
**601 University Drive**  
**San Marcos, TX 78666**  
**Office: (512) 245-2536**  
**Email: [LJStroup@txstate.edu](mailto:LJStroup@txstate.edu)**

## Student Members' News

Joseph Hoover, a PhD student in Geography at the University of Denver, participated in the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain regional AAG division meeting at Utah State University held in the period Sept 25-26, 2009. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, he presented a student paper titled, "Electricity Requirements for Arizona Water Services." For which he was awarded the first place prize for the doctoral level.

## Current WRSG Officers and Other Contacts

Position	Name	Term Expires	Email Address
<b>Executive Board</b>			
Chair	Chansheng He	2010	<a href="mailto:he@wmich.edu">he@wmich.edu</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	William J. Smith	2010	<a href="mailto:Bill.smith@unlv.edu">Bill.smith@unlv.edu</a>
Director	Anya Butt	2011	<a href="mailto:Butta@Central.edu">Butta@Central.edu</a>
Student Director	Sya Buryu Kedzior	2011	<a href="mailto:syakedzior@gmail.com">syakedzior@gmail.com</a>
Director	Shixiong Hu	2010	<a href="mailto:shu@po-box.esu.edu">shu@po-box.esu.edu</a>
<b>Awards Committee</b>			
Chair	Laura Stroup	2010	<a href="mailto:LJStroup@txstate.edu">LJStroup@txstate.edu</a>
Committee Member	Richard Earl	2010	<a href="mailto:re02@txstate.edu">re02@txstate.edu</a>
Committee Member	Karmal Alsharif	2010	<a href="mailto:kalsgari@cas.usf.edu">kalsgari@cas.usf.edu</a>
<b>Other Positions</b>			
Past President	Martin C. Roberge	2008	<a href="mailto:mroberge@towson.edu">mroberge@towson.edu</a>
Web Editor	Shixiong Hu	Appointed	<a href="mailto:shu@po-box.esu.edu">shu@po-box.esu.edu</a>
Newsletter Editor	Ahmad Safi	Appointed	<a href="mailto:Asafi74@yahoo.com">Asafi74@yahoo.com</a>



To contribute to or suggest improvements for this newsletter, please contact our editor Ahmad Safi ([assafi74@yahoo.com](mailto:assafi74@yahoo.com))