

Dissertation Awards

academic year 2011–12

Undergraduate dissertation awards

● Alfred Steers Essay Prize (RGS-IBG)

The RGS-IBG award for the best undergraduate dissertation in a UK geography department. Submissions by departments to be sent to rhed@rgs.org or RHED, RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Limit of one thesis per department. No additional/supplementary materials needed. **Deadline: 15 October**

● Quaternary Research Association (QRA)

The Quaternary Research Association, in association with the RGS-IBG, would like to recognise the achievements of undergraduates in Quaternary science by awarding a dissertation prize (£250) for a thesis demonstrating flair and originality. This prize is open to any undergraduate enrolled at a British or Irish university. Membership of the QRA or RGS-IBG is not a requirement for entry. Entries are limited to one per department per current academic year and may be on any Quaternary theme. Entries must be submitted by department and not by individual undergraduates. The QRA welcomes nominations from all appropriate sources, including new universities or small departments. The winner will be announced at the QRA Annual General Meeting (held annually each January) and the abstract of their dissertation published in an issue of Quaternary Newsletter. One copy, preferably the original, of eligible dissertations (marked for the QRA prize) should be posted to Dr Catherine Souch at the Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. The submitted dissertation should not be sent with the internal mark or comments. Prior to submission, please check for completeness and clarity of any maps and illustrations (for example, that those requiring colour are printed in colour). For further details contact Catherine Souch, e-mail: rhed@rgs.org. **Deadline: 15 September**

● The British Society for Geomorphology (BSG) - Marjorie Sweeting Dissertation Prize

This is awarded to the best undergraduate dissertation that focuses on 'Geomorphology' undertaken at a UK university. Entries are invited for this annual competition. The award (£200 plus funded attendance at the BSG Annual Conference) is presented to the successful nominee at the Annual General Meeting, the details of which are available from the BSG website <http://www.geomorphology.org.uk>. The agreed guidelines for assessment are as follows: Subject area: the field of geomorphology: earth surface process, and the erosion, deposition and formation of landforms and sediments. Foci can include the physical geography of river, valley, glacier, mountain, hillslope, coast, desert and estuary environments; alongside responses to Holocene, Quaternary and other long term environmental changes. Originality: The project should be an independent study, originated by the student. In particular, it should not be linked to a funded research programme, nor exhibit undue influence of or similarity to the supervisor's known and published work. Please submit entries using the online submission form: <http://www.geomorphology.org.uk/award/5>. Further details are available from: Dr Stephanie Mills (S.Mills@kingston.ac.uk), BSG Outreach Committee, School of Geography, Geology and the Environment, Kingston University London, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2EE.

Deadline: 30 September

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Research Group Awards (ordered by deadline)

Developing Areas Research Group (DARG)

The Developing Areas Research Group offers an annual prize for the most promising dissertation concerning 'The Geography of Developing Areas'. The author of the winning dissertation receives £100 worth of *Earthscan* books of their choice, and 25% discount on any further *Earthscan* books ordered. The prize is open to any student taking a first degree in Geography. Students taking joint degrees are eligible to enter for the prize, provided that at least half their course is in Geography. It is suggested that no Department of Geography submits more than one dissertation for this prize. Dissertations will be evaluated by three members of the DARG Committee. Dissertations (in PDF format) should be emailed with a copy of the instructions given to students to the DARG Undergraduate Prize Committee Dr Sara Parker, DARG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize Co-ordinator, Department of Geography, School of Social Science, Liverpool John Moores University, Clarence Street Building, Liverpool L3 5UG, email s.l.parker@ljmu.ac.uk. **Deadline: 1 July**

Geography of Health Research Group (GHRG)

The GHRG offers a dissertation prize of £100, sponsored by the international journal *Health and Place* published by Elsevier. The prize is open to any currently-registered undergraduate student in a UK University and will be awarded to the dissertation that exhibits the best overall contribution to any issue relating to health geography. The dissertations should usually be of first class standard and be submitted by the student's Department (Head or nominated representative) and with the student's knowledge, in electronic format only to: Dr Geoffrey DeVerteuil, School of Geography, University of Southampton, email: G.P.DeVerteuil@soton.ac.uk. Please note that we can only accept one entry from any department. **Deadline: 4 July**

Climate Change Research Group (CCRG)

For innovative and high quality thesis research in human or physical geography dimensions of climate change related research. One prize will be awarded annually valued at £100. Only one thesis may be submitted from any one department. Together with the thesis all submissions must include a statement from the Department including if the work was presented in any other forum, has been submitted for any form of publication, the awarded mark, position in the dissertation marks table and reflecting comments made by the examiners. All theses should be submitted to Dr Charlie Williams, Room 2U18, Department of Meteorology, University of Reading, Reading, RG1 6BB, or by email to c.j.r.williams@reading.ac.uk. **Deadline: 10 July**

Quantitative Methods Research Group (QMRG)

The prize is for the best dissertation in *any* area of quantitative geography, which include the application of existing techniques or the development of new ones in physical, human or environmental studies. Entries are limited to undergraduate students completing BSc / BA level dissertations in UK higher education institutions and must be nominated by a member of staff within those institutions. Each institution is limited to a single entry. Entries are judged by members of the QMRG committee who may, depending on the number of entries received, decide to award separate prizes for different fields of the discipline. There is a cash prize for the winner(s). This year will operate differently from previous years in that a complete copy of the nominated dissertation should be sent directly to each of three judges without any indication of the mark the dissertation received. If you would like to nominate a

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dissertation, please contact James Cheshire in the first instance (james.cheshire@ucl.ac.uk) and he will provide further information about where each copy should be sent.

Deadline: 10 July

● History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG)

An Undergraduate Dissertation Prize of £50 for outstanding original work in the history and/or philosophy of human geography, physical geography or associated fields. We welcome nominations that examine geographical knowledge, discourses and practices in academia, but also within schools and the public sphere. Nominations are requested from Dissertation Supervisors or Heads of Department. The dissertation should have been completed within the past two years and be written in English. We welcome nominations not only from the UK but also from other countries. Depending on the number and quality of submissions, the prize may not be awarded every year. Please direct all questions and submit an (unmarked) copy of the dissertation (either electronically or as a hard copy) with your letter of recommendation to Dr Heike Jöns (H.Jons@Lboro.ac.uk), Department of Geography, Loughborough University, Loughborough LE11 3TU, UK. **Deadline: 12 July**

● Political Geography Research Group (PoIGRG)

Political Geography Research Group (PoIGRG) The PoIGRG is offering a prize of £75 for the best undergraduate dissertation in political geography submitted to a UK university during the 2011–12 academic year. We welcome nominations that are conceptually, methodologically, and empirically innovative from across the broad spectrum of political geography. Nominations are requested from Dissertation Supervisors or Heads of Department, but should be limited to one per department. Nominated dissertations should be submitted as a single PDF file of less than 25MB in size, along with a letter of recommendation and a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations. These should be sent by email to Dr Adam Ramadan (adam.ramadan@geog.cam.ac.uk). Nominations will be shortlisted by a panel of political geographers from the University of Cambridge, and the winner will be chosen by the PoIGRG committee. **Deadline: 12 July**

● Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG)

A prize of £100 is offered each year for the best undergraduate dissertation in economic geography. Nominated dissertations should be: outstanding theoretical and/or empirical piece of work; usually be 10,000 words or more in length; submitted for formal assessment in the current academic year to a UK Higher Education Institution for a BA/BSc level Geography degree programme; include a full set of references and images (as relevant); and to be written in English. Please note that a department may not submit more than one entry and nominated dissertations should not be submitted for consideration for any other RGS-IBG prizes. A hard copy of the thesis, along with the dissertation guidelines that were issued to the student, should be forwarded to Dr Steve Musson, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Reading, RG6 6AB. **Deadline: 13 July**

● Historical Geography Research Group (HGRG)

The Historical Geography Research Group, in association with Ashgate, is pleased to offer a prize to the best undergraduate dissertation in any area of historical geography which is based upon original research and which demonstrates conceptual and/or methodological sophistication. The successful prize winner will receive £200 of Ashgate-published books, and will be invited to submit an article based upon their dissertation for publication in the *Journal of Historical Geography* (subject to the standard refereeing procedures of that

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periodical). The winner will also be invited to present their work at the annual HGRG Practising Historical Geography Conference in November.

Dissertations should normally be of first-class standard and nominated by Heads of Department / Examination Boards / dissertation supervisors as appropriate. Departments should not submit more than one dissertation for consideration. Only dissertations submitted during academic year 2011/12, by students enrolled at a UK university, will be considered. Submissions (unmarked hardcopy AND accompanying PDF) should be sent to: Dr Innes M. Keighren, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham Hill, Egham, TW20 0EX (innes.keighren@rhul.ac.uk). **Deadline: 13 July**

● Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG)

Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG) are pleased to be able to offer an annual prize of £100 for the best Undergraduate Dissertation in Social and Cultural Geography and £50 for the Runner-Up. Additionally both prize-winners will receive a year's subscription to the Journal of Social and Cultural Geography published by Taylor & Francis. Please see the mission statement on the www.scgrg.org website for definition about what is considered social and cultural geography. Nominated dissertations should be: outstanding theoretical and/or empirical piece of work; usually be 10,000 words or more in length; should be submitted for formal assessment in the current academic year to a UK Higher Education Institution for a BA/BSc level Geography degree programme; include a full set of references and images (as relevant); and to be written in English. We are looking to reward both excellent scholarship and innovation in the study of social and cultural geography. Please note that a department may not submit more than one entry and nominated dissertations should not be submitted for consideration for any other RGS-IBG prizes. Submission procedure: Nominations are requested from the Head of Department or Dissertation Convenor. All dissertations should be submitted as a single pdf file of less than 25MB in size (please compress images before saving as a pdf), along with a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations and a post-September contact address for the student. Submissions should be emailed to dissertationprize@scgrg.org. For further queries about the SCGRG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize, please contact Dr Emma Roe (e.j.roe@soton.ac.uk), Geography and Environment, School of Human and Social Sciences, University of Southampton SO17 1BJ, UK, or see information on the SCGRG website: www.scgrg.org/dissertation-prize/. **Deadline: 13 July**

● Urban Geography Research Group (UGRG)

UGRG's annual undergraduate dissertation prize is for innovative, original and high quality research in urban geography. No substantive area of urban geography is excluded from consideration: we welcome submissions which address any aspect of the social, cultural, economic or political life of cities. Additionally, dissertations may be based on secondary (archival) or primary data, addressing urban issues via a contemporary or historical focus. The winner will receive a prize to the value of £75, and have their dissertation published on the UGRG website (<http://urban-geography.org.uk/>). The prize is open to any currently registered undergraduate student in a UK Department of Geography, Planning, Earth Sciences or Environmental Sciences. Whilst it is expected that most such students will be in their third year of study (FT), students in the final year of a 4 year program may be entered for the prize so long as the nominated dissertation has been submitted for an undergraduate (rather than Masters) degree. Entries from year 4 students will be assessed according to higher marking criteria. It is customary for Dissertation Tutors or Heads of Departments to nominate outstanding urban geography dissertations for this prize. Departments may not

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submit more than one entry. Please note that only electronic submissions will be accepted and considered for the prize. Please email a pdf or word file of the dissertation to: Rita Jacinto, email: ana_rita.jacinto@kcl.ac.uk. **Deadline: 13 July**

● **Women and Geography Study Group (WGSG)**

The competition is now open and accepting entries for the best dissertation on any issue relating to geography and gender. The dissertations should usually be 10,000 words or more and should be submitted as a pdf file, along with a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations and a (post-September) contact address for the student to: Dr. Rosie Cox, r.cox@bbk.ac.uk. For further details or questions please contact Rosie Cox, Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies, Birkbeck, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX. Please note that departments may not submit more than one entry. PRIZES: 1st prize - £60 plus books; 2nd prize - £30 plus books and 3rd prize is £20 plus books provided by Longman and Prentice Hall (imprints of Pearson Education), publishers of WGSG (1997) Feminist Geographies.

Deadline: 14 July

● **Geography of Leisure and Tourism Research Group (GLTRG)**

The Geography of Leisure and Tourism Research Group offers an annual prize of £100 for the best Undergraduate Dissertation in Leisure/Tourism/Sports Geography, submitted as part of a BA, BSc or BEd degree in a geographical subject. A department should not normally submit more than one entry. Entries should be accompanied by a copy of the instructions given to students, and a note of the dissertation credit rating and mark awarded. Please also include a (post-September) contact e-mail address for the student, so that they can be notified of the result of the competition, and indicate whether the dissertation should be returned to the department or to the student. Dissertations should be emailed to: GLTRG Committee, c/- Research and Higher Education Division of the RGS-IBG (RHED@rgs.org), or sent by post to: GLTRG Committee, c/- RHED, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR. **Deadline: 22 July**

● **Biogeography Research Group (BRG)**

The competition to find the best undergraduate dissertation on a biogeographical topic in 2011-12 is now open. Each year the Biogeography Research Group sponsors the award, which is a £100 cheque to the winning student. Eligible students are those following a three-year undergraduate degree. Nominated dissertations are usually about 10,000 words long and will have been submitted for formal assessment in the academic year 2011-12. Please note that a department may not submit more than one entry and nominated dissertations should not be submitted for consideration for any other RGS-IBG prizes. All dissertations should be submitted as a single pdf file of less than 25MB in size (please compress images before saving as a pdf), along with a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations and a post-September contact address for the student.

Dissertations should be emailed to the BRG chair, Dr Harriet Allen, at hda1@cam.ac.uk. Further details are also available from her. **Submission deadline: 27 July**

● **Geographies of Children, Youth and Families Research Group (GCYFRG)**

Two prizes, part sponsored by Routledge, Taylor and Francis, are available for innovative and high quality undergraduate dissertations on any issue related to the geographies of children, youth and families (first prize: £50 and a year's subscription to Children's Geographies; second prize: £25 and a year's subscription to Children's Geographies). The dissertations should usually be approximately 10,000 words in length. Please send a copy of

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the dissertation, a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations and a (post-September) email address for the student to: Dr Ruth Evans, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, School of Human and Environmental Sciences, University of Reading, Whiteknights PO Box 227, Reading RG6 6AB (r.evans@reading.ac.uk). A department may not submit more than one entry. **Deadline: 31 July**

● **Participatory Geographies Research Group (PyGyRG)**

Participatory Geographies Research Group will offer one £50 prize to the best undergraduate dissertation and one £50 prize to the best postgraduate dissertation based on original research and showing conceptual sophistication in any area of participatory approaches and methods. Please send your department's entry to the following address or get in touch for further information: Dr Michael Leyshon (mleyshon@exeter.ac.uk), Department of Geography, Cornwall Campus, Penryn, Cornwall TR10 9EZ. **Deadline: 31 July**

● **Population Geography Research Group (PopGRG) (Joanna Stillwell Prize)**

This prize is named in memory of the daughter of Professor John Stillwell of the University of Leeds. Joanna who was a geography graduate from the University of Sheffield died in 2004. The Population Geography Research Group has set up three prizes (£100 for first prize; £50 for second prize; £25 for third prize) to be awarded for the best undergraduate dissertations in the broad field of Population Geography. Please note that for practical purposes we can only accept one dissertation from any institution and to be eligible that institution has to be in the UK. Please send a copy of the dissertations to Dr Sam Scott (Sam.Scott@bristol.ac.uk), School for Policy Studies, 8 Priory Road, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TZ.

Deadline: 31 July

● **Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG)**

The prize is available to students who have completed an undergraduate degree and produced a dissertation in a subject area related to rural geography. Three prizes are available - first prize: £50; second prize: £40; third prize: £30. Please note that for practical purposes we can only accept one dissertation from any institution and that institution has to be in the UK. More information and submissions to: Dr Keith Halfacree (k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk), Department of Geography, School of the Environment and Society, Swansea University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Electronic submission is preferred.

Deadline: 31 July

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Postgraduate dissertation awards

● Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG)

A prize of £100 is offered each year to the best PhD theses in economic geography. Any economic geography thesis that has been passed at a UK institution in the past 12 months is eligible. A hard copy of the thesis should be forwarded to Professor Andrew Jones (Birkbeck College, University of London. a.jones@bbk.ac.uk). Further details:

<http://www.egrg.org.uk/pgprize.html>. **Deadline: 31 January**

● Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG)

This prize is available to students who have completed a taught Masters degree and produced a dissertation in a subject area related to rural geography. The award is £50. Please include a post-September contact address for the student. Please note that for practical purposes we can only accept one dissertation from any institution and that institution has to be in the UK. More information and submissions to: Dr Keith Halfacree (k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk), Department of Geography, School of the Environment and Society, Swansea University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Electronic submission is preferred.

Deadline: 31 January

● Transport Geography Research Group (TGRG)

The 'Transport Geography Postgraduate Prize' is awarded for the best conference paper presented in a TGRG-sponsored session at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference by a postgraduate student (or, for those that have recently graduated, on their postgraduate student research work). Eligible students who have had a paper accepted into a TGRG-sponsored session for this year should ensure that a pdf file of the full written paper (up to 6,000 words), along with a copy of any powerpoint slides to be used in the presentation, is submitted to Dr Kate Pangbourne (k.pangbourne@abdn.ac.uk), TGRG Secretary, by the final deadline. The papers and presentations will be judged by a panel drawn from TGRG committee members.

Deadline for paper: 5pm on the Friday before the conference start date

● Climate Change Research Group (CCRG)

This prize is for an innovative and high quality masters thesis research in human or physical geography dimensions of climate change related research. One prize will be awarded annually valued at £200. Only one submission may be made from any one department. Submissions should be no more than 500 words and include a clear description and justification of the research question to be examined, a description of methods to be employed in the research and a breakdown of costs including those to be met by the CCRG Postgraduate Dissertation Prize. Preference will be given to innovative work that would not be financially viable without the support of this award. The award winner will be asked to provide a summary of their research findings to be placed on the CCRG website. All theses should be submitted to Dr Charlie Williams, Room 2U18, Department of Meteorology, University of Reading, Reading, RG1 6BB, or electronically to c.j.r.williams@reading.ac.uk.

Deadline: 10 July

● Participatory Geographies Research Group (PyGyWG)

Participatory Geographies Research Group will offer one £50 prize to the best undergraduate dissertation and one £50 prize to the best postgraduate dissertation based on original

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research and showing conceptual sophistication in any area of participatory approaches and methods. Please send your department's entry to the following address or get in touch for further information: Dr Michael Leyshon (mleyshon@exeter.ac.uk), Department of Geography, Cornwall Campus, Penryn, Cornwall TR10 9EZ. **Deadline: 31 July**

● Population Geography Research Group (PopGRG)

The Population Geography Research Group is offering the Bob Woods Postgraduate Dissertation Prize. The prize is named in honour of Professor Bob Woods, who passed away in 2011. Bob was an esteemed population geography, with interests across the sub-discipline. He made an invaluable contribution to the sub-discipline for many decades. The winner of the award receives £75. Please send a copy of the dissertations to Dr Sam Scott (Sam.Scott@bristol.ac.uk), School for Policy Studies, 8 Priory Road, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TZ. **Deadline: 31 July**

● The British Society for Geomorphology (BSG) – Dick Chorley Medal and Prize for Postgraduate Research

One of Dick Chorley's lasting contributions to geomorphology lies in the post-graduate students whom he inspired and guided at the start of their academic careers. Many have gone on to academic careers themselves, and include several of the leading figures in British geomorphology. In recognition of Dick's commitment to serving the future of the discipline, the BSG has decided to honour his memory by creating the Dick Chorley Medal and Prize (£500) for Postgraduate Research. The award is made for "the most significant original published contribution to geomorphology by a current or recently graduated post-graduate student". Anyone is allowed to nominate candidates (e.g. supervisors, external examiners, Heads of School, supervisory team members). One paper will be considered, published (electronic or paper form) in an English language research journal. Nominated candidates must be within 3 years of obtaining their PhD (i.e. graduation). The nomination should include the paper and outline the significance of the work, including reference to: (a) originality of the contribution to the study of geomorphology; (b) significance of the contribution to the development of geomorphological theory and principles; (c) Clarity of explanation and presentation. Please submit entries using the online submission form: Further details are available online at <http://www.geomorphology.org.uk/award/4>, and from Prof Mike Kirkby (m.j.kirkby@leeds.ac.uk), BSG Research Committee, Awards, School of Geography, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK, Tel: +44 (0) 113-343-3310, FAX: +44 (0) 113-343-6750. Nominations for next year's award can also be made online from this web site. **Deadline: 30 September**

● History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG)

The prize will be awarded to an outstanding & original Dissertation concentrating on History and/or Philosophy of Physical and/or Human Geography or associated fields. We welcome nominations that examine geographical knowledge, discourses and practices in academia, but also within schools and the public sphere. Nominations are requested from Dissertation Supervisors or Heads of Departments. As long as the Dissertation & Application files are written in English, we welcome nominations not only from the UK but also from other countries. Depending on the number and quality of submissions, the prize may not be awarded every year. The Dissertation should have been completed in the past two years. Each submission file must include: letter of recommendation from the Dissertation Supervisor or Head of Department; short letter from the Master student stressing the originality and novelty of the findings; and a copy of the dissertation. Please email submissions (as

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attachments in pdf, doc or rtf format) to Mathilde Leduc-Grimaldi (mathilde.leduc@gmail.com) prior to 31 October 2012, with 'HPGRG Postgraduate Prize' as the subject. For any additional information, please contact Dr. M. Leduc-Grimaldi (mathilde.leduc@gmail.com), Phone 00 32 471498305. **Deadline: 31 October**

● **Planning and Environment Research Group (PERG)**

PERG offers an annual postgraduate prize (£100) for the best taught Masters dissertation on any issue relating to environmental issues and their management, policy, politics, planning or governance. Dissertations should be 20,000 words maximum and should be submitted by the student's department, along with a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations and contact details for the student. Each department may not submit more than one entry. Submissions and queries should be directed to the PERG Secretary: Sara Fuller s.k.fuller@durham.ac.uk. **Deadline: 31 October**

● **GIScRG Prize for Best Postgraduate Dissertation or Industrial Research Paper (GIScRG)**

The GIScience Research Group of the RGS-IBG have established an annual prize of £100 for the best postgraduate dissertation on any issue relating to GIS/Sc, spatial analysis, spatial modelling or geocomputation. We are looking for a Masters level dissertation of approximately 10,000-15,000 words, which covers significant research in one or more of these areas. Dissertations should be of "Distinction" standard and be submitted by the student's institution (Director of Postgraduate Programme or nominated representative) and with the student's knowledge. Please submit the work in electronic form, along with a copy of the dissertation regulations to Dr Seraphim Alvanides, Northumbria University (s.alvanides@gmail.com). We will only accept one entry from any higher education institution in the UK. **Deadline: 12 December**