

Bylaws of the Animal Geography Specialty Group

Article 1. Name

The name of this association shall be the Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG) of the Association of American Geographers (AAG).

Article 2. Mission

The Animal Geography Specialty Group strives to enhance geographic research and scholarship on matters relating to human-animal studies by: (a) encouraging the exchange of ideas among geographers studying biological, cultural, ecological, economic, political, and technical aspects of the myriad ways humans co-exist with other animal species, (b) promoting research in these areas, (c) facilitating collaboration between existing AAG specialty groups and committees to promote common interests and develop intra-disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects. The overall aim of AnGSG is to support discussion of human-animal issues by geographers as a legitimate and active part of the discipline.

Article 3. Membership

1. The membership of the AnGSG consists of regular members and associate members.
2. Regular membership includes all members of the AAG (regular, retired, student). Annual dues for faculty members are \$5.00 and \$19.00 for students. Any changes to the dues will be set at the annual business meeting provided there is a simple majority vote to do so.
3. Associate membership includes all nonmembers of the AAG. Nonmembers may join the AnGSG upon payment of dues (\$5.00) to the AnGSG Treasurer. These associate members may not vote or hold office, but may serve on committees or in voluntary positions.

Article 4. Activities

Any member may organize an AnGSG activity; however, any activity requires prior approval from the Chairperson. The activities of the AnGSG may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Organizing and sponsoring of symposia (e.g., paper, panel, and poster sessions), field trips, workshops, etc. at the annual meeting of the AAG, and other professional meetings/conferences.
- Developing electronic and printed forums of communication for members and nonmembers.
- Supporting research and its publication on animal geographies in geography.
- Honoring outstanding student work through student paper awards.
- Developing curricular materials for inclusion in geography courses.
- Focusing on specific subject areas through ad hoc caucuses.
- Organizing other activities as is appropriate.

Article 5. Board of Directors

The AnGSG is governed by a Board of Directors (the Board), consisting of seven voting members: four Officers (a Chairperson, a Secretary/Treasurer, a Communications Officer, and a Student Officer) and three additional members. The Board shall act as the voting body in the management of AnGSG affairs. Whenever feasible, the Board will act with deliberative advice from the general membership. Graduate students may serve in all Board positions, except that of Chairperson.

1. Officers

- a. **Chairperson.** The chairperson carries a three-year term and should serve no more than two consecutive terms. The AnGSG chairperson shall:
 - i. Facilitate the annual business meeting
 - ii. Serve as liaison to the AAG including co-preparing annual reports with the secretary/treasurer.
 - iii. Appoint liaisons between the AnGSG and other professional bodies
 - iv. Further the mission of the AnGSG as appropriate including overseeing the publication of the AnGSG newsletter

- b. **Secretary/Treasurer.** The secretary/treasurer serves a three year term and should serve no more that two consecutive terms. The AnGSG secretary/treasurer shall:
 - i. Take minutes at the annual business meeting
 - ii. Preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson
 - iii. Manage and maintain all AnGSG business and financial records
 - iv. Co-prepare annual reports with the Chairperson

- c. **Communications Officer.** The communications officer serves a two year term and should serve no more than two consecutive terms. The AnGSG communications officer shall:
 - i. Manage and maintain the contact list for AnGSG members
 - ii. Maintain/update the AnGSG website and listserv

- d. **Student Officer.** The student officer must be a graduate student. The student officer serves a one year term and should serve no more than two consecutive terms. The AnGSG Student Officer shall:
 - i. Encourage student participation (e.g., through a newsletter article or website column)
 - ii. Assist in organizing special sessions, workshops, competitions

- e. **General Board Members.** General board members serve two year terms and no more than two consecutive terms. The AnGSG general board members shall:
 - i. Oversee the operation and general direction of the AnGSG
 - ii. Serve in an advisory capacity to the four officers

2. Nominations and Elections
 - a. Notification of open positions will be made to all AnGSG members at least three months before the annual business meeting.
 - b. Nominations will be made from the floor at the annual business meeting, with elections to be held at the same meeting.
 - c. Members need not be present to be either nominated or elected. A member may submit a nomination to the Board thirty days prior to the meeting if attendance is not possible.
 - d. All Board members will assume office at the end of the annual business meeting, following their election.

3. Vacancies
 - a. In the event that an officer or board member is unable to complete a term of office, the Board will 1) choose one of its members, or 2) select a volunteer from the general membership to fill the vacancy until the next business meeting is held.
 - b. If someone is chosen or chooses to fill a vacant position this does not count towards term time frames.

Article 6. Meetings

The AnGSG will hold at least one general membership meeting annually (the ‘business meeting’), usually at the AAG national meetings. The business meeting will be used to review the previous year’s activities, announce new officers/board members, announce winners of any competitions or awards, receive the financial report from the secretary, vote on any outstanding business, and plan activities for the coming year.

Article 7. Ratification and Amendment of Bylaws

1. These bylaws will become effective when (a) approved by the Association of American Geographers, and (b) approved by a simple majority of the AnGSG members present at the 2009 business meeting in Las Vegas, NV.
2. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any member of the AnGSG, but must be received by the chairperson at least three months before the next business meeting. All members will be notified of the proposed changes prior to the next business meeting. Amendments to the bylaws will be made by electronic ballot and in-person voting; a simple majority is required to amend the bylaws. Votes on amendments may also be made by special ballot at the discretion of the Board.