

# **Media and Communication Specialty Group of the AAG**

## **2016 Report**

**Emily Fekete, Chair**

### **I. Mission Statement**

The Media and Communication Specialty Group of the AAG strives to enhance geographic research and scholarship on matters relating to media and communication by: (a) encouraging the exchange of ideas among geographers studying technical, social, economic, political, and/or cultural aspects of media and communication, (b) promoting research in topics related to media and communication contexts (infrastructure and institutions) and content (discourses, texts, and images), (c) encouraging reflection on the communicational role and social mission of geographers both in and out of the classroom. In doing so, we support the AAG's mission of advancing professional studies in geography and encouraging the application of geographic research in education, government, and business.

### **II. Membership and Finances**

As of May, 2016, the Media and Communication Specialty group had 95 paid members and funds over \$1000.00. Fees are \$5 per year (\$1 for students).

### **III. Officers**

*Chairperson:* Emily Fekete, Oklahoma State University (fekete@okstate.edu) will serve until spring 2019.

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Paul C. Adams, University of Texas (paul.adams@austin.utexas.edu) will serve until spring 2018.

*Student Liaison:* Laura Sharp, University of Arizona (laurasharp@email.arizona.edu) will serve until spring 2018.

*Communications Director:* Andrew Shears, Mansfield University (ashears@mansfield.edu) will serve until spring 2018.

#### **IV. Activities and Plans**

The Media and Communication Geography SG was proud to sponsor 24 sessions in San Francisco and aims to sponsor 30 sessions at the 2017 meeting. We also plan to sponsor a keynote speaker at the 2017 annual meeting, possibly in conjunction with the American Geographical Society. This session will be part of the re-branding of our group to Media and Communications geography (see below).

The Media and Communication Geography SG is developing a new website as well as various social media pages and will offer complete information about the group's activities and objectives.

The Media and Communication Geography SG did not award student paper prizes this year, but is planning to promote the call for papers more aggressively next year.

The board of the Media and Communication Geography SG voted to officially change our name from Communication Geography SG to Media and Communication Geography SG to better reflect the objectives and goals of the group as well as our diverse scholarly interests in media and communications. These scholarly pursuits range from film, television, music, and social media, to language, the internet infrastructure, and telecommunications networks. We changed the name to be more inclusive of the variety of scholarship that exists within media and communications geography as a subdiscipline.