

Cultural and Political Ecology Newsletter

Issue 47, Spring 2006

Editor, Tony Abbott

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Letter from the Chair

Greetings to everyone. I write this letter as your newly elected chair from springtime in Michigan.

First, I want to say a BIG thank you to all the retiring officers and student reps, Brad Jokisch, Dereka Rushbrook, Bill Moseley, James McCarthy, Gabriela Valdivia, Deb Sinha, and Mike Goodman. I also want to thank James McCarthy for managing the listserve so well, a task he has agreed to continue.

The outgoing CAPE officer team has done a terrific job energizing and growing our specialty group. We hope that as your new team we can keep the ball rolling. The new team consists of me as chair, Tony Abbott continuing as secretary/ treasurer, webmaster and newsletter editor, Kendra McSweeney, Mary Brook, and Claudia Radel as regional officers, and Christian Abizaid, John Kelly, and Katharine Meehan as student representatives.

Brad Jokisch will have completed his annual report as outgoing chair. It is posted at the AAG website under the CAPE specialty group link.

My mission during my term will be to keep our specialty group growing and exciting. In terms of some logistical considerations, I want to explore the elimination of 'regional' councilors and rather proposing three 'at large' councilors that can then include Canadian, British, Australian, and other non-US based CAPEs. I'd also like to stagger the officer turnover. This year Tony

kindly agreed to stay on, providing us with good continuity, however, I feel that instituting continuity may be in our best interest. A proposal on how to do so will be forthcoming.

I also hope to sniff out any lurking old uses of the CESG acronym. All uses should have been replaced with CAPESG or CAPE by now, but I know it is not yet complete. Please let me know if you encounter any.

Antoinette WinklerPrins
East Lansing, Michigan
April 12, 2006

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Announcements

Robert McC. Netting Award

William I. Woods was the 2006 Robert McC. Netting award recipient. The award is given in recognition of distinguished research and professional activities that bridge geography and anthropology. Bill is currently Professor of Geography and Director of Environmental Studies Program at the University of Kansas. He is a specialist in the analysis of soils and sediments in archaeological sites, particularly in Brazil and the US. Midwest, but he has also worked in at least nine other countries. Bill has made major contributions to our understanding of the prehistoric Indian settlement at Cahokia, Illinois and prehistoric anthropogenic dark earths (terra preta) in Amazonia. He has more than 80 publications including nine books and monographs and has been the Principal Investigator on 110 externally funded field projects. For Dr. Woods' distinguished research and professional activities that bridge geography and anthropology, CAPE is pleased to award Bill the 2006 Robert McC. Netting award.

Student Paper Award

The 2006 CAPE paper award, with its cash award of \$100, went to Ryan Galt, Ph.D. Candidate University of Wisconsin, Madison for his paper titled "Export Farmers' Responses to U.S. Pesticide Residue Regulations: The Political Ecology of Regulatory Risk, Caution, and Local Interpretations in Costa Rica." We had a very high number of student paper submissions this year—14. This is an excellent sign, especially because the officers were very pleased with the high quality of most of the submissions.

Student Field Study Award

The 2006 CAPE Student Field Study Award, with its award of \$500, went to Katharine Meehan, Ph.D. Candidate University of Arizona “The abject commodity: Spatial perceptions of sewage in San Diego-Tijuana”. Katharine had competition from 8 other field study proposals, which is considerably higher than any previous year.

The CPESG Listserv (AAG-CESG-L) is for general exchange of information, news, views, debate, questions and answers by the members of the specialty group. All current CPESG members have been subscribed to the list. Go to <http://lists.psu.edu/archives/aag-cesg-l.html>, select the link to join the list, and follow the instructions. Thereafter, you can manage your subscription and access the archives through the same interface. For all queries, email James McCarthy jpm23@psu.edu. Only list members (CPESG members) can post messages. To do so, send your message to the list address: AAG-CESG-L@LISTS.PSU.EDU. Everyone on the list will receive your message so please ensure that the subject line is informative, and the content is appropriate. Contributions sent to this list are automatically archived for posterity.

The Journal of Transdisciplinary Environmental Studies

Visit their special issue “Power, Development and Environment” online <http://www.journal-tes.dk/>

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Calls: Conferences, Meetings, Publications

Managing Drought and Water Scarcity in Vulnerable Environments: Creating a Roadmap for Change in the United States 18-20 September 2006, Boulder, CO

Drought-related impacts can be expected to increase in intensity in the twenty-first century as human population increases and land uses change. To evaluate current drought-related problems and anticipate future issues, GSA and its partners announce a participatory conference to be held 18–20 September 2006 near Boulder, Colorado, USA. While broad in scope, the meeting will focus on identifying successful strategies for drought and water scarcity management and on developing a clear and decisive action plan.

<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/06drought/>

Regional Conference International Geographical Union

July 3-7, 2006, Brisbane, Australia

Abstracts due by April 28, 2006. Check with the AAG national office about travel grants to this conference

Regional Division Meetings of the AAG

These will be coming up in the fall of 2007. Check the [Notices](#) section of the CAPE webpage for links and dates.

Call for submissions to *Atlantic Studies*, published by MESEA (The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas).

Bill Boelhower, editor of the journal *Atlantic Studies*, has just joined the English Department at LSU. He would love submissions by Geographers, who are already making many contributions to this multidisciplinary field. Cultural and Historical Political Ecologists might find this a great outlet for some of their research and will find a favorable reception. The journal's webpage is at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14788810.asp>. Its terms of reference are below. Contact: wboelh1@lsu.edu. *Atlantic Studies* provides an international forum for research and debate on historical, cultural and literary issues arising within the new disciplinary matrix of the circumatlantic world. In particular, it seeks to foster a transcultural dialogue between the two hemispheres and, specifically, among the nations of Europe, the Americas and Africa.

The Journal aims to celebrate the original Atlantic mappemonde: a highly critical space, centered not on a single nation or land mass but on a new cosmopolitan interchange of ships and peoples, cultures and texts, ideas and tools.

Published on behalf of MESEA (The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas), the Journal aims to be an important site for scholarship on the comparative study of multi-ethnic cultures and societies. It challenges nationalist histories and literatures by focusing on the Atlantic as an arena of cultural change and exchange, translation and interference, communication and passage.

Atlantic Studies accordingly invites submissions in the areas of history, cultural studies, critical theory, and literature from academics, public intellectuals, contemporary commentators, and activists whose focus of interest lies in circumatlantic perspectives. The Journal will also publish work based on such visual materials as photography, film, and information media. Each volume will also include book and media reviews.

Atlantic Studies encourages both scholarly research and timely critical debate on current issues within its chosen paradigm. In as much as they develop a comparative and intercultural perspective, essays on race, class,

gender, ethnicity and on human rights, citizenship and identity politics will also be welcomed.

Call for submissions to the International Feminist Journal of Politics

We invite critical and creative submissions from a global cross-section of women writers on the politics of water for a forthcoming special issue of International Feminist Journal of Politics (IFJP), published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis. Dr. Nandita Ghosh and Paola Corso will serve as guest editors for this special issue of IFJP. "The Politics of Water: A Confluence of Women's Voices" will combine testimonial accounts, critical essays, short fiction, and poetry on the physical nature of women's struggle over water as a resource and material reality.

These struggles often place at risk women's bodies in national, racial, ethnic, and class conflicts. For example, a 2004 Consumers International report notes the following: Poor rural women in developing countries may spend eight hours a day collecting water, carrying up to 20 kilos of water on their heads each journey. One in 10 school-age girls in Africa do not attend school during menstruation or drop out at puberty because of the absence of clean and private sanitation facilities in schools. Every day 6,000 girls and boys die from diseases linked to unsafe water and women are the main caretakers for sick children and adults. A woman in a slum in Kenya pays at least five times more for one liter of water than a woman in the United States. Women activists opposing dam projects in India brave the rising waters in protest.

As debates become more acrid in tone in the 21st Century over the role of water in our increasingly fragile environment, such concerns are sure to become more anxiety prone for rural women of the South who often manage water resources for their communities. This special issue is a response to such debates and concerns.

All submissions must focus on gender thematics in any discussion concerning the politics of water, but the editors are open to work drawing from various disciplines including water resources social studies, women's studies, cultural studies, literary studies, environmental studies history, mythology, geography, political science, sociology, anthropology, biology, and others. Please see the journal's Notes for Contributors for further details concerning accompanying materials, format, and house style. All submissions must be written in English.

Guidelines for critical essays: Essays should not exceed 3,000 words. Submissions should be sent as follows: Dr. Nandita Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Communications,

Philosophy, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ 07940. You can contact Dr Ghosh at nan_dita@excite.com or nghosh@fdu.edu

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Jobs/Scholarships

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY The Department of History and Philosophy at Montana State University is currently searching for a **postdoctoral fellow** as part of the NSF-funded program entitled "Mile High, Mile Deep: Imagining and Modifying Topographical and Subterranean Environments." An interdisciplinary research project, "Mile High, Mile Deep" seeks to integrate the history of science and technology, **environmental history**, and historical geography. Information regarding this fellowship can be found at (<http://www.montana.edu/cgi-bin/msuinfo/fpview?ctype=p&csn=6234-3>). The past two holders of this position have been historical geographers. This is a wonderful opportunity for young scholars working in the area of science, technology and environment. If you have any further questions regarding this fellowship, please contact Michael Reidy (mreidy@montana.edu).

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Meeting Reports

Annual Report to the AAG by outgoing Chair Brad Jokisch (Available from [AAG Specialty Groups Website](#))

Minutes of the 2006 Business Meeting, Chicago

I. CAPE participation in 2006 AAG and membership update

A) 53 CAPE-Sponsored Sessions, nearly equal to 55 of last year.

B) Membership is at 622 (382 Students, 240 Non-students), up from 525 in 2005.

II. Financial Report (Tony Abbott)

In summary, we are nearly where we began on year ago!

05/31/05	Dues collected for May 2005	90.00	360.00
06/30/05	Dues collected for June 2005	95.00	455.00
07/31/05	Dues collected for July 2005	45.00	500.00
08/31/05	Dues collected for August 2005	74.00	574.00
09/30/05	Dues collected for September 2005	143.00	717.00
10/31/05	Dues collected for October 2005	261.00	978.00

11/30/05	Dues collected for November 2005	148.00	1,126.00
12/31/05	Dues collected for December 2005	120.00	1,246.00
<i>Projected activity for January (not yet closed)</i>			
01/31/06	Dues collected for January 2006	90.00	1,336.00
<i>Projected activity for March (not yet closed)</i>			
03/12/06	Field Study Award (Katharine Meehan)	(500.00)	836.00
03/12/06	Student Paper Award (Ryan Galt)	(100.00)	736.00
03/12/06	Awards Luncheon (Chair & two students)	(200.00)	536.00
03/12/06	Joint Plenary w/ IPSPG (W. LaDuke)	(150.00)	386.00
03/12/06	Certificate Frames, Paper	(35.00)	351.00
			<u>\$ 351.00</u>

III. Newsletter and Webpage (Tony Abbott)

- 1) Spring issue of newsletter will be coming out soon, please submit announcements to the editor (Tony Abbott).
- 2) The website has been redesigned; please make comments or suggestions to the webmaster (Again, Tony Abbott)

IV. News from the Specialty Group Chairs meeting

- A) CAPE is the 6th largest specialty group in AAG

V. Awards

- A) Robert McC. Netting Award goes to William Woods. Antoinette WinklerPrins provided a testimonial. Woods thanked the board members and those who nominated him for the recognition.
- B) Best Student Paper goes to Ryan Galt of UW-Madison for his paper titled, "Export Farmers' Responses to U.S. Pesticide Residue Regulations: The Political Ecology of Regulatory Risk, Caution, and Local Interpretations in Costa Rica." (There were fourteen submissions this year and the competition was quite strong)
- C) Field Study Award goes to Katharine Meehan for proposal titled, "The abject commodity: Spatial perceptions of sewage in San Diego-Tijuana" (Again the competition was quite strong with nine submissions)

VI. Election of new Officers (Chair, Treasurer/Secretary, three regional officers, graduate student reps)

- A) Chair. One nomination for Antoinette WinklerPrins, who was elected
- B) Secretary/Treasurer. There were no nominations. Tony Abbott agreed to continue for another year.

C) Regional Councilors

- 1) West. One nomination for Claudia Radel, who was elected.
- 2) Central. One nomination for Kendra McSweeney, who was elected.
- 3) East. One nomination for Mary Brook, who was elected.

D) Student Representatives, There were three nominations and elections as follows

- 1) Katie Meehan, University AZ
- 2) John Kelley, Kansas
- 3) Christian Abazaid, McGill

VII. New Business

A) Should we put a length limit on the student papers? It was noted that the reading of student papers is becoming challenging given the high rates of submission in recent years with some papers being in excess of 40 pages. James McCarthy suggested an 8,000 word limit, and further that we should encourage publication of the winning submissions. Brad Jokisch agreed to write some language up and circulate it to the new officers for consideration.

B) Field study award, students were advised to adhere to format of application for future attempts.

C) There was some discussion of staggering election times among officers to facilitate some degree of institutional memory among the board.

D) There was some discussion of changing the format Regional Councilors to permit representation of members who are not situated in the United States

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Member News and Hires

Maria Fadiman (Ph.D. UT-Austin, Asst. Professor Florida Atlantic University-Boca Raton), was named one of eight [Emerging Explorers](#) by the national Geographic Society in February 2006. Excerpts from the press release follow...

National Geographic's Emerging Explorers Program recognizes and supports uniquely gifted and inspiring adventurers, scientists, photographers and storytellers who are making a significant contribution to world knowledge through exploration while still early in their careers. The Emerging Explorers each receive an award of \$10,000 to assist with their research and to aid further exploration. The program is supported by Microsoft and the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation. Fadiman, 36, conducts ethnobotanical studies of how indigenous people in Latin America and Africa use plants. An assistant

professor in the Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University, she recently completed her Ph.D. in geography from the University of Texas at Austin. Projects she is currently involved in are a study of the human role in the dispersal of exotic plant species in the Galápagos, and the ecological impact on the islands; the use and importance of the baobab tree in Zimbabwe and Tanzania; and the food plants of different ethnic groups in the rain forest of Ecuador.

Deborah Che (PhD Clark) has been appointed as an Assistant Professor of Geography at Kansas State University, effective August 2006.

April Luginbuhl (PhD Candidate OSU) received a 2006 AAG Dissertation Grant.

Kathleen McAfee (PhD UC Berkeley Geography 1999) has completed a term as Visiting Canada Research Chair in Sustainability at Simon Fraser University. She will be joining the faculty of the Department of International Relations at San Francisco State University, where she will teach political economy of international development and environment.

Andrea Nightingale (PhD UMN-Twin Cities) has an article forthcoming in *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* "The Nature of Gender: work, gender and environment"

Morgan M. Robertson (PhD UW-Madison, Post-doctoral Fellow EPA) has been appointed Assistant Professor in Geography at The University of Kentucky. His term will begin in the Fall of 2007.

Dr. Cynthia L. Sorrensen (PhD OSU) has been appointed Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department of Economics and Geography at Texas Tech University.

Raymond Bryant (Kings College London) has been promoted to Reader.

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Necrology

Robin Donkin, emeritus reader in historical geography, University of Cambridge passed away in late January 2006. He earned his Ph.D. in 1953 at King's College Newcastle, University of Durham. Widely recognized as an historical geographer, his works spanned many regions and focused on the

global commerce of several natural commodities. Some examples of his work include the following books: (2004) *Between east and west: the Moluccas and the traffic in spices up to the arrival of Europeans*, (1998) *Beyond price: pearls and pearl-fishing, origins to the age of discoveries*, (1979) *Agricultural terracing in the aboriginal New World*.

Rick Schroeder (Rutgers) and wife Dorothy Hodgson lost their young son, Toby on December 3 in Tanzania. In remembrance of Toby, people wishing to do so may make donations to the Flying Medical Service, an Arusha-based non-profit medical outreach that runs clinics and provides emergency care and transportation to people (primarily Maasai) in remote areas of Tanzania. FMS was started over 20 years ago and still run by a long-time friend of the family, Father Pat Patten (who also gave the homily at Toby's service in Tanzania). Checks should indicate "Toby Schroeder Fund" and be made out to "Flying Medical Service." They can be mailed to:

Flying Medical Service
c/o Mike Patten
1758 Manchester
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1920

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Book Reviews and Notices

Robert Kuhlken, long-time CAPE member and professor at Central Washington University, has written a new book, co-authored with friend and mentor, geography professor **Philip Jackson** from Oregon State University. [*A Rediscovered Frontier: Land Use and Resource Issues in the New West*](#) describes the changing landscapes taking hold in the rapidly growing eleven western states, and addresses the social, economic, political and geographical realities of land use in the West today. The book begins by exploring the meanings of the term "New West," and then describes prototypical land use patterns found throughout the region. It examines the spatial circumstances of rural and small town growth patterns, and provides examples of the kinds of development that could occur elsewhere in areas having similar geographic situations. It then surveys the range of community response to development pressures, paying special attention to the often neglected realm of private land planning and local growth management in this region where public lands usually receive the most scrutiny. The book then takes a closer look at recent challenges to Oregon's highly regarded statewide planning approach to managing growth, and concludes by offering a forward-looking, cooperative approach to comprehensive planning. It is intended as a

text for college students taking courses in land use planning, a sourcebook for land use planning and environmental management professionals, as well as anyone who cares about western environments. *A Rediscovered Frontier* is now available in both hardback and paperback from the publisher, Rowman and Littlefield.

Philip Porter (Emeritus UMN-Twin Cities) 1996 winner of the Robert McC. Netting Award, has just published a new book, *[Challenging Nature: Local Knowledge, Agroscience, and Food Security in Tanga Region, Tanzania](#)*, University of Chicago Press, 2006, 318 pp.

Dr. Rajindra K. Puri, (University of Kent in Canterbury, England) has just published his new book, *[Deadly Dances in the Bornean Rainforest: Hunting Knowledge of the Penan Benalui](#)*, KITLV Press, 2006, 320 pp.

Raymond Bryant (Kings College London) has published a new book *[Nongovernmental Organizations in Environmental Struggles: Politics and the Making of Moral Capital in the Philippines](#)*. Yale University Press, 2005, 288 pp.