



*American Association of Geographers*  
Middle States Division

2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING  
ANNOUNCEMENT AND  
CALL FOR PAPERS

**President's Message**

We were hoping that by late October 2021, we could return to having an in-person meeting at Rutgers and did a lot of planning to achieve that goal. Sadly, because we could not ensure all attendees would have to present proof of vaccination as well as follow other protocols, we have had to pivot to a virtual online format.

Given the success of last year's 2020 meeting run by Jase Bernhardt with the support and assistance of AAG, we are hopeful we can achieve another great virtual meeting. Our online meeting last year enabled participants from as far away as Australia to join us.

**But we need your support! We have extended the abstract and registration deadline as well as the Student Competition deadlines to October 20, so there is still time to submit an abstract and come to our virtual event!** As always, submissions are welcome on all aspects of our diverse discipline, but we are especially interested in topics such as race, racism, and the academy; the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, and the uneven effects of climate change.

Please check our website for any **last minute changes**, as well as for other information about the Student Competitions and Geography Bowl.

If you have any questions or concerns about this year's meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Nate Gabriel, Rutgers University

Additional division information may be found on our website: [msaag.aag.org](http://msaag.aag.org)

**Keynote Speaker**



Dr. Emily Yeh is a professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado Boulder, whose research focuses on questions of power, political economy, and cultural politics in the nature-society relationship.

**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**Fall 2021 Virtual Meeting**  
**HOST Rutgers University & AAG**

**October 29-30, 2021**  
**Abstracts due by October 20, 2021**

**WIN \$ IN STUDENT COMPETITIONS!**  
**BE A GEOBOWL WINNER AND GET**  
**\$300 TO GO TO NYC AAG 2022!**

**JOIN US FROM ANYWHERE!**

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2021 Virtual Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be hosted by Rutgers University on Friday October 29 and Saturday October 30 with AAG support



Rutgers University will serve as the virtual host for this year's MSAAG fall meeting. The meeting will begin in the early afternoon on Friday, October 29th with opening remarks followed by both paper and poster sessions and continue into the early evening, and concluding with a **Mapathon** and our annual **Geography Bowl**. On Saturday October 30 the meeting will resume with additional paper and poster sessions and a keynote address. There will be an awards session to conclude the meeting.

### CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, PANELS

*Paper Sessions* are typically 45-60 minutes long and consist of three or four presentations of 15 minutes each. Papers on all topics of geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held over Zoom video on Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30. Consult paper competition guidelines under the Student Competition tab on the webpage for guidance. Presenters can share their slides for the rest of the audience to view.

*Poster Sessions* will be held on both Friday and Saturday. Poster presenters are asked to create a pdf or PowerPoint slide of their poster which can be screen shared. This should be sent to the Student Competition chair Hamil Pearsall ([hamil.pearsall@temple.edu](mailto:hamil.pearsall@temple.edu)) by October 20th. Consult poster competition guidelines under the Student Competition tab on the webpage for guidance. Each poster will be given a unique Zoom video room where interested parties and the poster judges will be able to view the poster, ask questions and interact with the presenter.

*Panel Sessions* are welcome. Panel discussion sessions typically consist of three to four panelists and are organized around a theme. Roundtable discussion sessions are moderated by the chair of the round table who facilitates a discussion among all attendees focusing on a theme or issue. Students are welcome to organize both panel and roundtable sessions. A limited number of panels can be accommodated. If you are interested in organizing either a panel or a roundtable session, please contact **Nate Gabriel** at [nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu](mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu) before October 10.

### Submitting Abstracts

Abstracts for papers, posters, and panels must be submitted during the online registration process through the AAG portal ([MSAAG 2021 Registration](#)) AND to [middlestatesmeeting2021@aag.org](mailto:middlestatesmeeting2021@aag.org). The paper title and abstract should not exceed a total of 250 words. Compose your abstract in Microsoft Word, proofread and edit it, and copy-and-paste into the appropriate location during registration. Your submission will NOT be proofread or edited and will be published in the program as submitted. All abstract submissions for paper, posters, and panels are due by **October 20**.

## Registration and Abstract Submission

Conference registration is online this year at the AAG portal ([MSAAG 2021 Registration](#)). After registering, you can submit your abstract using this link: <https://aag-meetings.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home>. Participants who register for the conference by October 20 will receive an early bird discount.

<b>Fees</b>	<b>Before Wed. October 20</b>	<b>After Wed. October 20</b>
Faculty/Professional Student	\$50	\$60
Student	\$15	\$25

## Donations

During the registration process, you will be asked for an optional donation to the meeting. Please note that if you choose to donate, those funds will be used to help defray costs associated with the discounted registration fees provided for all students.

## Virtual Meeting Format

The meeting will be held over a Zoom like interface. All sessions of the conference will be held in unique Zoom rooms, with links included in the final program. Recordings of meeting sessions will be available to all attendees after the meeting ends.

## Student Competitions

Students presenting papers do not have to enter the Student competition. Students who do want to enter the Student Competition should send completed papers or pdfs of posters plus their faculty letter certification to the Student Competition chair [hamil.pearsall@temple.edu](mailto:hamil.pearsall@temple.edu).

## Geography Bowl Competition

Calling all students (undergraduate and graduate)! Consider participating in the Middle States Division Geography Bowl at the annual meeting on Friday, October 29. You may form a team beforehand (5-6 people) or sign up at the meeting to be placed on a team. The top six highest-scoring students will be invited to represent the Division at the World Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting in New York City in April 2022. Students who accept the invitation and represent MSAAG will receive partial funding support to attend the meeting. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact our Vice President, **Dr. Patricia Beyer** at [pbeyer@bloomu.edu](mailto:pbeyer@bloomu.edu).

## Call for Nominations for MSAAG Secretary

We are still accepting nominations for Secretary and Vice President of MSAAG. The Executive Board has two meetings a year, one a conference call in the spring and one at the annual fall meeting.. The Secretary serves a one-year term beginning January 2022. The Secretary takes minutes at division meetings, and organizes and judges the student paper competition at the fall meeting. The Secretary may run for Vice President the following year. The Vice President organizes the Geography Bowl competition at the fall meeting. Please consider this exciting opportunity! Voting will take place online in October 2021, Submit nominations by October 25 to Past President **Jase Bernhardt** [Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu](mailto:Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu)

## Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers and Posters

### STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION

**2021 Virtual Annual Meeting**  
**Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers**  
**Hosted by Rutgers University, with the support of AAG**

**October 29-30, 2021**

Middle States AAG encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition of the MSAAG annual conference. The graduate and undergraduate paper competitions both have a first prize of \$1000 (provided by AAG to fund the awardees' registration and travel costs to the AAG Annual Meeting). The graduate paper second prize is \$300 and the third prize \$150. The undergraduate paper competition has a second prize of \$150 and a third prize of \$50. There is also a Student Poster Competition with graduate and undergraduate divisions with first prizes of \$200, second prizes of \$100 and third prizes of \$50. There is a Rob Mason Poster award for High School students of \$50 named after our past Regional Councilor Dr. Robert Mason from Temple University who passed away in 2017. He served MSAAG as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Division, as well as Regional Councilor.

Student status is as of May 1, 2021. Please note your status (Graduate/Undergraduate) on your abstract and paper submission. Registration fees are refunded after the conference for students both submitting the completed paper by the **October 20** deadline AND presenting the paper at the conference. Completed papers must follow the *Middle States Geographer* guidelines and can be no longer than 10 pages, single spaced, 10 point Times Roman font, including all figures, tables, endnotes, and references. Further details on the guidelines are specified on the [msaag.aag.org](http://msaag.aag.org) website at the *Middle States Geographer* tab.

**Students must have a faculty advisor certify their entry for Paper and Poster Competitions and use the guidelines and rubrics for judging on the website under the tab Student Competitions** and attach that with the submission to the Competition chair. Students entering the competition should send abstracts of no more than 250 words to President **Nate Gabriel** [nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu](mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu) and register and submit their abstract through the AAG portal [MSAAG 2021 Registration](#) by **October 20**, and send electronic copies of completed papers plus their faculty verification letter to MSAAG Student Paper and Poster Competition Chair, **Hamil Pearsall** [hamil.pearsall@temple.edu](mailto:hamil.pearsall@temple.edu) by **October 20**.

Send an abstract of your poster to **Nate Gabriel** [nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu](mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu) by **October 20** and a pdf of your poster to MSAAG Student Paper and Poster Competition Chair, **Hamil Pearsall** [hamil.pearsall@temple.edu](mailto:hamil.pearsall@temple.edu) by **October 20**. Registration fees are refunded for paper/poster competition **winners**.