



American Association of Geographers
Middle States Division
NEWSLETTER

Editor: Pankaj Lal

Mark Your Calendar!

Fall 2018 Meeting
HOST Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ

October 26-27, 2018
Abstracts due by October 5, 2018

President’s Message

Welcome back Geography Community! Thus far, it has been a fun and productive summer filled with several activities, from meeting new people to working on the latest research ideas. We are very excited to host the 2018 Annual Meeting at Montclair State University!

Since its founding in 1908, Montclair State University has nurtured the minds of our future leaders and has become a frontrunner in the academic research community. MSU’s Earth and Environmental Studies Department hosts a number of Geography-related programs, including a Bachelor’s degree in Geography, Master’s degrees in Sustainability Science and Earth and Environmental Science, and a Doctorate in Environmental Management. MSU has a large campus nestled in the quiet suburbs of Clifton, Upper Montclair, and Little Falls, but conveniently accessible to New York City.

The Annual Meeting will take place at the new Center for Environmental and Life Sciences building. Lodging is available at nearby hotels and transportation to and from campus is available with hotel shuttle service as well as public transit options in the area. Information is provided on page 5. We look forward to seeing everyone and welcoming new individuals to our expanding Division!

Pankaj Lal, Montclair State University

2018 Divisional Officers

PRESIDENT

Pankaj Lal
 Earth and Environmental Studies
 Montclair State University
 Montclair, NJ
jalp@montclair.edu

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jo Margaret Mano
 Dept. of Geography
 SUNY-New Paltz
manoj@newpaltz.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Davis
 Department of Geography
 Kutztown University
 Kutztown, PA
midavis@kutztown.edu

PAST PRESIDENTS

James Kernan
SUNY Geneseo

 Joan Welch
West Chester University

SECRETARY

Jase Bernhardt
 Department of Geology,
 Environment and Sustainability
 Hofstra University
 Hempstead, NY
Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu

Mark Blumler
SUNY Binghamton

MIDDLE STATES GEOGRAPHER

Adam Kalkstein
 USMA West Point
Adam.Kalkstein@usma.edu

REGIONAL COUNCILOR

Lindsay Naylor
 Department of Geography
 University of Delaware
 Newark, DE
lnaylor@udel.edu

Paul Marr
 Shippensburg University
pgmarr@ship.edu

STAND ALONE GEOGRAPHER

Renata Blumberg
 Montclair state University
blumbergr@montclair.edu

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Additional division information may be found on our website:
msaag.aag.org

2019 AAG Annual Meeting

Join the American Association of Geographers (AAG) at the Annual Meeting in Washington D.C., April 3-7, 2019, for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GI Science. The AAG Annual Meeting is an interdisciplinary forum open to anyone with an interest in geography and related disciplines. All scholars, researchers, and students are welcome. For more information, visit <http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>.

Stand Alone Geographer (SAGE) News

Are you the only geographer in your department? Stand Alone Geographers (SAGE) is an AAG affinity group for geographers who work alone as academics or professionals. Middle States has had active SAGE Representatives for several years now. If you are interested in getting involved with SAGE, please contact Renata Blumberg at blumbergr@montclair.edu.

Middle States Geographer

The *Middle States Geographer* is the official academic journal of the Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers. The journal is published annually and includes papers from external submissions and the division Annual Meeting. The *Middle States Geographer* contains papers authored by both faculty and students (with peer-review by at least two reviewers) and covers a wide range of topics. All Journal Volumes are freely available from the [website](#). We invite all who present papers at the upcoming Fall 2018 MSDAAG meeting to submit a manuscript for publication in the next issue of the *Middle States Geographer*, although manuscripts from all researchers are welcome.

Paper submission guidelines are available on the journal's website at: msaag.aag.org. You may also contact the editors: Adam Kalkstein at the USMA West Point, Adam.Kalstein@usma.edu or Paul Marr at Shippensburg University, pgmarr@ship.edu if you have questions about submitting a manuscript or if you are interested in serving as a reviewer. Students presenting papers (faculty co-authors may be included after the student award competition has occurred) should consider submitting their paper for publication in the journal. The *Middle States Geographer* is entirely an online journal. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors, while reducing printing costs. Furthermore, color graphics are now possible at no cost to authors.

Scholarship for Student Geographer from Puerto Rico

The Executive Board has established a \$500 scholarship to encourage participation of a student geographer from Puerto Rico or Jamaica at the Divisional meeting each year. To apply students should email **Pankaj Lal** at msaag2018@montclair.edu by **September 10** with the following details:

- A nomination letter from a faculty member
- A 250-word description of their academic/research background, career goals, and how this conference will assist in meeting these

The awardee will receive \$500 in funding for use towards travel, meals and lodging costs for the Middle States Division Annual Meeting. The registration fees for the scholarship awardee will also be waived.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Fall 2018, Montclair, New Jersey

The 2018 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held at Montclair State University
On Friday October 26 and Saturday October 27.



The community at Montclair State University warmly welcomes you to our campus in Montclair, NJ. The meeting will be held at the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences (CELS), a 107,500 sq. ft. facility housing the [Department of Earth and Environmental Studies](#) and multiple Centers and Institutes. The 2018 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. Friday will include plenary and paper sessions, dinner, and Geography Bowl. On Saturday, the morning sessions will be followed by a buffet luncheon with a brief MSD meeting and student awards. Over the course of the weekend there will be optional field trips to the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, the Passaic River, LEED buildings in Newark, urban and community gardens, and migrant foodscapes in urban NJ.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, PANELS, AND LIGHTNING TALKS

Paper Sessions are 60-80 minutes long and consist of four presentations of 20 minutes. Papers on all topics of geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21. Each room is equipped with a computer, digital projector and screen. We urge participants to use PowerPoint software for their presentations and to have your presentations saved on a flash drive.

Poster Sessions will be held on both Friday and Saturday. Poster dimensions must be at least 36 inches in height and 48 inches in width (36" h x 48" w) but cannot exceed 48" h x 60" w. Poster mounting boards and easels will be available. Posters will be displayed on the first-floor atrium of the CELS building.

Panel-Roundtable Sessions are welcome. Panel discussion sessions typically consist of three to four panelists and are organized around a theme. Roundtable discussion sessions are 'open format' where the chair of the round table 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 Pankaj Lal at msaag2018@montclair.edu before September 24, 2018. Current sessions include:

- Effective Research Proposal Writing – roundtable with the NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences Program Director on how to write and effective research proposal when applying for NSF grants
- The Future of Food – panelists will analyze the most pressing issues facing the food system and provide their perspectives on how to foster sustainability in the food system.

5-Minute Lightning Talks (for students only) are intended to give undergraduates and graduates an opportunity to speak about emerging research activities. Presenters should have one to three PowerPoint images to illustrate their work, and carefully prepare a five-minute overview of their project.

Chat with NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences Director to discuss general and specific ideas regarding research proposals.

Submitting Abstracts

Abstracts for papers, posters, panels, and lightning talks will be submitted during the online registration process. The combined title and abstract should not exceed 250 words. It is highly recommended that you compose your abstract in a word processor, proofread and edit it, and cut-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.

FIELDTRIPS*

LEED Buildings or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely used green building rating system in the world, promoting a whole-building approach to sustainability. Visit some of NJ’s LEED buildings in Newark, ‘The Brick City,’ to see how NJ is moving towards a greener future. *Cost: \$10 Time: Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM*

Cultivating the Garden State After over a century of decline, agriculture in Northeastern NJ is making a comeback in form of urban and community gardens. In this field trip, participants will visit diverse urban and community gardens, and they will learn about how these garden-based initiatives are using different methods to improve access to locally-grown fruits and vegetables. *Cost: \$15 Time: Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM*

Paterson Great Falls is a 77-foot high waterfall on the Passaic River within the Paterson Great Fall National Historical Park. As one of the largest falls in the US, this National Natural Landmark played a critical role in NJ’s early industrial development. *Cost: \$10 Time: Saturday 1:30PM-4:30PM*

Migration and the Making of Foodscapes in Passaic County In this field trip through the cities of Paterson, Clifton and Passaic, participants will explore the history of migration and place-making through the lens of food. Stops will include bustling areas like Paterson's Little Ramallah, as well as other sites off the beaten path. *Cost: \$20 Time: Saturday 1:30PM-4:30 PM*

**You must pre-register to attend field trips as there are limited spaces available. Sponsors are being solicited to provide discounted rates for student participants attending field trips.*

EVENT LOGISTICS

Registration

Registration will be online this year at <https://msaag2018.eventbrite.com>. *There is a 20-minute period for registration, so make sure that your credit card information is on hand and your abstract is prepared in advance if you are presenting.* Participants who register for the full conference by October 1st will receive a discount. Walk-in tickets will be available**:

<u>Fees*</u>	<u>Before 6 pm Oct. 1</u>	<u>After 6 pm Oct. 1</u>
Faculty Full Registration	\$110	\$120
Student Full Registration	\$50	\$55
Faculty One Day	\$70	\$75
Student One Day	\$30	\$35

**Fees include program costs and ticket and payment processing fees charged by Eventbrite. Note that there will be no refunds after October 19, 2018.*

***Walk-in tickets include meals, but will only allow you to participate as a spectator. To present during this conference you must register online to submit an abstract. Pricing for walk-in tickets will match the prices under “Before 6pm Oct. 1”*

Directions to Montclair State University

Directions, maps, and details on public transportation can be found [here](#).

Parking at Montclair State University

Parking is strictly enforced at MSU, so it is important to receive the validated discounted rate of \$5/day you must only park at the Red Hawk Deck to avoid a parking violation. You will be able to purchase parking when registering online. Paid parking is also available on campus at the Montclair State University train station for just \$3/day. Additional maps will be included in the preliminary program, which will be emailed approximately one week before the conference.

Make your Lodging Reservations

We suggest that you make arrangements for lodging early, as this is the peak season for fall foliage tourism! We have arranged for a blocks of rooms at the [Holiday Inn](#) for Thursday 10/25, Friday 10/26, and Saturday nights 10/27 at the rate of \$109 plus taxes, and a block of rooms at the [Fairfield Executive Inn](#) for 10/25 and 10/26 for \$115 plus taxes. There is a more affordable option at the [La Quinta Inn & Suites](#) for 10/25, 10/26, and 10/27 for \$85 plus taxes. All hotels are within ten miles of campus, where the program will be held. Mention "Middle States Division of the AAG or MSU" when making your reservations. **Please make reservations early, as the number of rooms is limited, and room rates will expire a month before the event (three weeks at Fairfield Executive Inn).** *

*If those three are booked up [Hampton Inn and Suites](#) is another local option.

Holiday Inn

1 Route 46 West
Totowa, NJ 07512
973-785-9000

Fairfield Executive Inn

216 Route 46 East #234
Fairfield, NJ 07004
973-575-7700

La Quinta Inn & Suites

38 Two Bridges Road
Fairfield, NJ 07004
973-575-1742

Hotel Shuttle Service

A shuttle service to Montclair State University will be available to guests staying at the Holiday Inn, Fairfield Executive Inn, and La Quinta Inn & Suites. Additional information on shuttle times and availability will be included in the preliminary program which will be emailed approximately one week before the conference.

Child Care

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) will reimburse attendees up to \$150 in child-care costs. If anyone is interested in taking advantage of this support, please contact Pankaj Lal at msaag2018@montclair.edu by October 1, 2018. The child-care provider must be certified as contracted by the MSD, and reimbursement managed through MSD. The conference chairs do not endorse, recommend, or promote any one agency. Responsibility for selection and investigation of an agency's or provider's credentials is the sole responsibility of the child's parent or guardian.

Call for Nominations for MSD Officers

Please consider joining the leadership of MSDAAG. We are currently soliciting nominations for **Secretary** position to serve a one-year term. The term runs from January 2019 – December 2019.

The Secretary organizes and judges the student paper and poster competitions at the fall meeting; keeps minutes of all official meetings of the Division including those of the Executive Board; and conducts other Division correspondence as required. The Board has two meetings a year, one a conference call in the spring and one at the annual fall meeting. Normally, the President serves first one year as Secretary, then as Vice-President, and in the third year the position of President. Voting will take place in October 2018. The newly elected position will be announced at the Fall 2018 Meeting. Please submit nominations to Past President **James Kernan** at kernan@geneseo.edu by September 15.

Please consider these rewarding opportunities. You may contact **Pankaj Lal** at lalp@montclair.edu or any current board member for additional information.

Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers

Submit a paper to the AAG Middle States Division's

STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION

2018 Annual Meeting

Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers

Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

October 26 – 27, 2018

Middle States Division AAG encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition of the MSDAAG annual conference. Both graduate and undergraduate competitions have a First Prize of \$100 and a Second Prize of \$50. The Middle States Division nominates an outstanding graduate paper at the regional meeting for the AAG Council Award. The awardee receives \$1,000 in funding to use towards registration and travel costs to the AAG Annual Meeting.

Student status is as of May 1, 2018. Please note your status (Graduate/Undergraduate) on your abstract and paper submission. 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 at the web site at msaag.aag.org. You can download the submission guidelines document [here](#). **Students are strongly encouraged to work with a faculty advisor on their entry.** Entrants should indicate when registering online if they are entering the competition. Please send electronic copies of completed papers to Jase Bernhardt at jase.e.bernhardt@hofstra.edu, MSDAAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by **October 5**.

There is also a Student Poster Competition with graduate and undergraduate divisions with a First Prize of \$100 and a Second Prize of \$50 along with People's Choice Poster award named after our past Regional Councilor Dr. Robert Mason from Temple University who passed away last year. Dr. Mason served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Division. Send an abstract of your poster to Pankaj Lal at msaag2018@montclair.edu by **September 30**. Please note your status (graduate/undergraduate) on your abstract.

Student award winners for both the paper and poster competition will also receive a refund for their registration fees after the meeting.

World 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 26 in Montclair, NJ. Highest-scoring students will be invited to represent the Division at the World Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting in Washington D.C. in Spring 2019. Students who accept the invitation and participate in Washington D.C. will receive partial funding support. You may form a team beforehand (5-6 people) or sign up at the meeting to be placed on a team. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact our Vice President, Dr. Michael Davis at midavis@kutztown.edu.