



American Association of Geographers Middle States Division

2020 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Welcome to our virtual meeting!

In a year of unprecedented challenges, AAG and the Middle States region have been working diligently to ensure a vibrant and engaging Middle States Division Annual Meeting. Hofstra University will serve as the virtual host of this year's online meeting, with support from AAG. The meeting will take place during the afternoon and evening of **Friday, October 16th**, and during morning and midday on **Saturday, October 17th**. Abstracts and panel proposals are due **September 25th**.

Despite the shift online, all the typical events comprising our meeting will still occur. Please find more information in the following pages about the **student paper and poster competitions, regional geography bowl**, and general call for **papers, posters, and panels**. Moreover, we are excited to announce **two** featured speakers, *Elisabeth Root* and *David Kaplan*. They will present plenary lectures on crucial issues facing geographers, including our role in addressing the COVID-19 crisis, and the current state of the discipline in the United States higher education landscape.

We will also promote inclusion at this year's meeting. Students from schools with populations that are traditionally underrepresented at conferences will be offered free registration; please see **P. 3** for further details. We also encourage meeting attendees to propose sessions and panels concerning issues such as social justice, racism in the academy, and mental health.

If you have any questions or concerns about this year's meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out! I look forward to 'seeing' you virtually in October.

- Jase Bernhardt, Hofstra University

Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu

Featured Speakers

Elisabeth Root



Dr. Root is a professor in the Department of Geography at The Ohio State University where her work focuses on the intersection of geography and public health. Elisabeth will speak about the geographic patterns of unequal COVID-19 impacts across diverse areas, including New York City and Long Island.

David Kaplan



Dr. Kaplan is the **AAG Past President** and a Professor in the Department of Geography at Kent State University. His work involves the study of geographic manifestations of ethnic identity. David will speak about the current state of geography in the US, including where programs are located, topical trends, and opportunities to grow the field.

Additional division information may be found on our website: <https://msaag.aag.org/>

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2020 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be hosted by Hofstra University as a *Virtual Meeting*:
Friday October 16 and Saturday October 17



HOFSTRA
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Hofstra University will serve as the virtual host for this year's Middle States region annual meeting. The meeting will begin in the early afternoon on Friday, October 16th with opening remarks followed by both paper and poster sessions and continue into the early evening. On Saturday, October 17th, the meeting will resume in the morning with additional paper and poster sessions, followed by a midday awards session and regional business meeting to close out the meeting. There will also be facilitated networking sessions and two keynote addresses during the meeting.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, PANELS, AND LIGHTNING TALKS

Paper Sessions will be 45 or 60 minutes long, consisting of three or four presentations of 15 minutes. Papers on all topics of a geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held over Zoom Video on Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17. Presenters can screen 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. Each poster will be given a unique Zoom Video room where interested parties can view the poster, ask questions, and interact with the presenter.

Panel Session Proposals are encouraged for any broadly geographic topic, especially those relating to current challenges in public health and social justice. Typically, a session will comprise a moderator and three to four panelists discussing a certain theme. If you are interested in organizing a panel session, please email middlestatesmeeting@aag.org.

CALL FOR FACILITATED NETWORKING FEEDBACK

To ensure that the typical socializing can take place, we are offering several options for **Facilitated Networking** as part of the virtual meeting. When registering for the meeting, you will be asked to indicate which type(s) of networking activities are of interest to you. Potential activities include:

- ➔ Topical networking for your field or subfield of interest
- ➔ Career level networking (mingle with your colleagues who are also students, faculty, non-academics, etc.)
- ➔ Mentoring (indicate if you are interested in serving as a mentor for students or being mentored)

There will be two facilitated networking sessions, one on each day of the conference, so you may indicate interest in up to two of the networking options. Further details will be announced closer to the conference.

REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Meeting registration and abstract submission will be online using the AAG system:

https://www2.aag.org/iCore/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=MSDAAGAM20

You may use your existing AAG login or create one to register for the meeting. The abstract submission deadline is **Friday, September 25th**. Participants who register early for the conference will receive a discount:

Fees	By Friday Sept. 25	After Friday Sept. 25
Faculty/Professional	\$50	\$60
Student	\$15	\$25

Free Registration for Students in Geography Programs at Minority Serving Institutions

The Middle States Division will offer free registration to this year's conference for all students in the Middle States region attending minority serving institutions with geography programs, and all institutions in Puerto Rico. The list of institutions can be found on the AAG website at:

http://www.aag.org/galleries/project-programs-files/AAG_MSI_Guide_2011.pdf.

To request funding, please email middlestatesmeeting@aag.org using your .edu email address. Any questions about this program can also be directed to that email address.

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, and free registration for students from minority serving institutions.

Virtual Meeting Format

The meeting will be held over Zoom Video. All sessions of the conference will be held in unique Zoom rooms, with links included in the final program. If you do not already have a Zoom account, you can sign up for free at Zoom.us. Please direct any questions about Zoom to middlestatesmeeting@aag.org. Recordings of meeting sessions will be available to all attendees after the meeting ends.

Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers and Posters**STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER COMPETITIONS**

2020 Annual Meeting, October 16-17

Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers

The AAG Middle States Division encourages graduate, undergraduate, and high school students (posters) to submit and present research papers to the Student Paper Competition of the MSDAAG annual conference. Student status is as of May 1, 2020, and please note your student level (Graduate/Undergraduate/High School) in your submission.

Paper Competitions: The *graduate* paper competition has a first prize of \$1000 (provided by AAG to fund the awardee's 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 first prize of \$1000 (provided by AAG to fund the awardee's registration and travel costs to the AAG Annual Meeting*), a second prize of \$300, and a third prize of \$150.

Middle States AAG registration fees are refunded after the conference for students both submitting the completed paper by the 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 Middle States website at <https://msaag.aag.org/>. **Students must have a faculty advisor recommend their entry and use the guidelines and rubrics for judging on the website under the tab Student Competitions.** Students should send paper abstracts of no more than 250 words to middlestatesmeeting@aag.org by **September 25**, and send electronic copies of completed papers to Nate Gabriel, nategab@geography.rutgers.edu, Middle States AAG Student Paper Competition Chair, by **October 2**.

Poster Competitions: 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. New for this year, there is a **high school poster competition**, with a first prize of \$75 and second prize of \$50. The high school poster winners will receive Rob Mason Poster awards named after our past Regional Councilor Dr. Robert Mason from Temple University who passed away in 2017. He served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Division.

To enter the poster competition, send an abstract of your poster to middlestatesmeeting@aag.org by **September 25**.

*To accommodate awardees' plans in these times of COVID-19, the AAG is expanding this award as follows: Awardees will be allowed to use the award money to cover registration and travel to the 2021 AAG Annual Meeting in Seattle, or they can use the money to register for the virtual 2021 AAG Annual Meeting, and the remainder can be spent on later meeting costs, including the costs to attend an AAG Regional Division meeting in 2021 and/or the costs to attend the 2022 AAG Annual Meeting in New York.

Student Geography Bowl Participation

In addition to the paper and poster competitions, all undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate in the Middle States Division Annual Geography Bowl **the evening of Friday, October 16th**. This year's Geography Bowl will be an **individual competition**, with a live quiz rewarding correct and timely answers to questions covering a wide range of geographic topics. The exact start time will be announced as part of the conference program.

The top scorers during the Geography Bowl will be selected to represent the Middle States division at the World Geography Bowl during the AAG meeting in April 2021. Team members will be provided funding to help offset AAG meeting attendance costs. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please email middlestatesmeeting@aag.org

Call for Nominations for MSAAG Officers

Please consider joining the leadership of MSAAG. The Executive Board meets occasionally throughout the year to plan the annual meeting and other initiatives. We are soliciting nominations for **Secretary, Vice President and Regional Councilor**.

The **Secretary** serves a one-year term beginning January 2021. 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** position is a three-year commitment. After serving as Vice President, the person assumes the role of President and then Past President, serving a total of three years to maintain organizational continuity. The Vice President organizes the Geography Bowl competition at the fall meeting. We are also soliciting nominations for a **Regional Councilor** to serve a three-year term, July 2021-24. The Regional Councilor acts as the liaison between MSAAG and AAG and attends council meetings at the national meeting to represent divisional interests.

Voting will take place in September 2020. The newly elected positions will be announced at the October 2020 Meeting. Please submit nominations to Past President **Michael Davis**, midavis@kutztown.edu, by September 6. The Executive Board will provide all the guidance and resources you need to be successful. Please consider these rewarding opportunities. You may contact **Jase Bernhardt** (Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu) or any current board member for additional information.

Both self-nominations and nominations of a colleague are welcome for any of the open positions!

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 October 2020 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 at <https://msaag.aag.org/middle-states-geographer/>

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 available at no cost to authors.

2020 Divisional Officers

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