



*American Association of Geographers*  
**Middle States Division**

**2021 ANNUAL MEETING  
 ANNOUNCEMENT AND  
 CALL FOR PAPERS**

**President's Message**

After more than a year (and counting) in which people around the world and at home have faced hardship and unprecedented uncertainty related to COVID-19, we're looking optimistically toward a return to an in-person conference in 2021.

Rutgers University is proud to serve as the host of this year's meeting in New Brunswick, NJ, with support from AAG. The meeting will take place during the afternoon and evening of Friday, October 29th, and during morning and end after lunch on Saturday, October 30th. Abstracts are due October 10th.

In this issue, you'll find information on the student paper and poster competitions, regional geography bowl, and general call for papers, posters, and panels. As always, submissions are welcome on all aspects of our diverse discipline, but we are especially interested in submissions on race, racism, and the academy; the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, and the uneven effects of climate change.

We are also very excited to announce that this year's keynote will be given by Dr. Emily Yeh, AAG's incoming president for 2022. Her talk will focus on her research on environmental knowledge among Tibetan pastoralists and its relationship to Chinese environmental policy and ecological science.

If you have any questions or concerns about this year's meeting, please reach out to me. I look forward to seeing you in October.

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**



Dr. 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 Meeting**  
**HOST Rutgers University**  
**New Brunswick, NJ**

**October 29-30, 2021**  
**Abstracts due by October 10, 2021**

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 2021 Middle States Division AAG Meeting will be held at Rutgers University  
on Friday October 29 and Saturday October 30**



Rutgers University extends a warm welcome to our campus in New Brunswick, NJ. The meeting will be held in the Rutgers University Inn & Conference Center on Cook Campus. (Note, this is a slight change of venue from that previously announced).

The 2021 meeting will consist of two days of paper and poster sessions. Friday will include paper and poster sessions, dinner, and Geography Bowl. On Saturday, a morning of sessions will be followed by a buffet luncheon, plenary, a brief Middle States Division business meeting, and student awards.

### CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, PANELS

**Paper Sessions** are typically 60-80 minutes long and consist of three or four presentations of 20 minutes each. Papers on all topics of geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30. Consult competition guidelines under the Student Competition tab on the webpage for guidance. Each room is equipped with a computer, digital projector and screen.

**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" high and 60" wide. Consult competition guidelines under the Student Competition tab on the webpage for guidance. Poster mounting boards and easels will be available.

**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 form' 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 **Nate Gabriel** at [nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu](mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu) before September 17.

### Submitting Abstracts

Abstracts for papers, posters, and panels must be submitted during the online registration process 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 10**.

### Registration and Abstract Submission

Conference registration is online this year at the AAG portal [MSAAG 2021 Registration](#). The AAG portal is under construction so registration and abstract submission will begin on September 1. MSAAG will send a reminder to all our membership once the abstract and registration AAG submission portal has opened.

Please check in at the lobby of the University Inn and Conference Center for the conference. Registration will start at 12 noon on Friday October 29th and 8 AM on Saturday October 30th. Participants who register for the conference by October 1 will receive an early bird discount.

Fees	Before October 1	After October 1
Faculty/Professional	\$120	\$140
Student	\$50	\$60
Faculty 1 Day	\$75	\$85
Student 1 Day	\$30	\$35

\* Note that there will be no refunds after October 21.

\*\*Registrations made after 21 October may not include meals, unless there is space available, since catering requires notice by that date. Walk-in tickets purchased after 21 October allow you to participate as a spectator and match "after October 1" prices. To make a presentation during this conference you must register online and submit an abstract.

### Parking

Parking is available in the Conference Center lot (lot 82). Nearby lots 74A and 76 have been designated as overflow, if needed. No parking permit is required.

### Directions

Directions to Rutgers University campus by car and train, and a campus map, can be found at <https://tit.rutgers.edu/directions>. Directions to the conference center are at <https://inn.rutgers.edu/getting-here>. Transit between campuses is free using the campus bus system.

### Make your Lodging Reservations

We suggest that you book lodging early. Rooms at the **Rutgers University Inn and Conference Center** are available at affordable rates, and include parking, WiFi and access to the university bus system. Other hotels are available in the area, at rates that will vary depending on the usual range of factors (booking site, preferred member status, etc). Because the University Inn is an affordable option, we have not booked blocks of rooms elsewhere. You do not need to identify yourself as part of the MSAAG conference at booking.

**Rutgers University Inn & Conference Center**  
178 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-932-9144

Need to contact the organizer with questions?  
President **Nate Gabriel** is the meeting organizer.  
Contact him at [nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu](mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu)

## Meet Our New Regional Councilor

We are pleased to announce that Steven Schnell has been elected as our Regional Councilor, and will be serving from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Steven Schnell is a Professor in the Department of Geography at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, where he has been since 2002. He is a broadly trained cultural geographer who has published on a range of topics -- community supported agriculture, place in comics and graphic novels, ethnic identity and place, and neo-localism. From 2005-2007, he served as Secretary, Vice-President, and President of the Middle States Division of the AAG, and organized the 2007 MSAAG annual meeting. Since 2017, he has been editor of the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, and before that, he was editor of *The Geographical Bulletin*, Gamma Theta Upsilon's peer-reviewed journal for student research in geography.

## 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](mailto:blumbergr@montclair.edu)

**Call for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Papers and Posters****STUDENT PAPER & POSTER COMPETITION**

2021 Annual Meeting

Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers

Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

October 29-30, 2021

Middle States Division 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 15 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 at the web site at [msaag.aag.org](http://msaag.aag.org). **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 Submit this with your entry.** 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 the abstract through the AAG portal by **October 10**, plus send electronic copies of completed papers to MSAAG Student Paper and Poster Competition Chair, **Hamill Pearsall** [hamill.pearsall@temple.edu](mailto:hamill.pearsall@temple.edu) by **October 15**. Send an abstract of your poster to **Nate Gabriel** [nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu](mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu) by **October 10** and an abstract and pdf of your poster to MSAAG Student Paper and Poster Competition Chair, **Hamill Pearsall** [hamill.pearsall@temple.edu](mailto:hamill.pearsall@temple.edu) by **October 15**. Registration fees are refunded for paper/poster competition winners.

**Geography Bowl Competition**

Calling all students (undergraduate and graduate)! Be a winner!

Please compete in the Middle States Division Geography Bowl at the annual meeting on Friday, October 29 in New Brunswick, NJ. You could win a \$300 stipend to support your participation as a MSAG team member at the 2022 AAG meeting in NYC! You can build 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 MSAAG at the World Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting in New York City in April 2022. Students who represent MSAAG will receive \$300 as partial funding support. 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).

## Scholarship for Student Geographer from Puerto Rico or Jamaica

The Executive Board has established a \$500 scholarship to encourage participation of a student geographer from Puerto Rico at the Divisional meeting each year. Applicants should send their scholarship application of no more than 250 words to **Nate Gabriel** at [nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu](mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu) by **September 1** and should be nominated by a faculty mentor. Applicants should outline briefly their academic/research background and career goals and how participation in this meeting will assist in meeting these goals. A nomination letter from faculty mentor should accompany the student application. The awardee will receive \$500 in funding for use towards the awardee's travel, meals and lodging costs for the Middle States Division Annual Meeting. The registration fees for the scholarship awardee will also be waived.

## 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 annual Fall MSAAG meetings to submit a manuscript for publication in the next issue of the *Middle States Geographer*, although manuscripts from all researchers are welcome year-round.

Paper submission guidelines are available on the region's website at: [msaag.aag.org](http://msaag.aag.org). You may also contact the editors: **Adam Kalkstein** at [Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.edu](mailto:Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.edu) or **Paul Marr** at Shippensburg University, [pgmarr@ship.edu](mailto:pgmarr@ship.edu) if you have questions about submitting a manuscript or if you are interested in serving as a reviewer. Students presenting papers should consider submitting their paper for publication in the journal (and faculty co-authors may be included after the student award competition has occurred). The *Middle States Geographer* is entirely an online journal. Articles from 1968 (Volume 8) through 2019 (Volume 52) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2020 issue (Volume 53) will be available soon. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors, and color graphics are possible at no cost to authors.

## Call for Nominations for MSAAG Officers

Please consider joining the leadership of MSAAG. The Executive Board has two meetings a year, one a conference call in the spring and one at the annual fall meeting. We are soliciting nominations for Secretary and Vice President. 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 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. Please consider this exciting opportunity! Voting will take place online in September 2021. The newly elected positions will be announced at the Fall 2021 Meeting. Please submit nominations to Past President **Jase Bernhardt** [Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu](mailto:Jase.E.Bernhardt@hofstra.edu) by September 20.

The Executive Board will provide all the guidance and resources you need to be successful. Please consider these rewarding opportunities. You may contact or **Nate Gabriel** at [nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu](mailto:nate.gabriel@rutgers.edu) any current board member for additional information.

### 2021 Divisional Officers

**PRESIDENT**

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