



American Association of Geographers Middle States Division NEWSLETTER

Editor: Hamil Pearsall

Mark Your Calendar!

Fall 2023 Meeting
HOST Temple University
Philadelphia, PA

October 27-28, 2023
Abstracts due by October 7, 2023

President's Message

This summer, we have been busy planning for the MSAAG annual meeting and cannot wait to welcome you to Temple University in October for our first in-person meeting since 2019. We will have two fantastic keynote speakers, including Clinton Johnson, ESRI's Racial Justice and Social Equity lead, and Dr. Rebecca Lave, Professor of Geography at Indiana University and President of the AAG.

It is time to register for the MSAAG annual meeting!

Abstracts and student competition materials are due on October 7. Early discounted registration ends on September 30. Submissions on all aspects of our diverse discipline are welcome, and we look forward to generative conversations. Our annual meeting is a wonderful place for students and faculty to present their work and make connections across the region, so please spread the word.

This Newsletter includes MSAAG news, including a call for MSD officer nominations for 2024 and new Middle States Geographer editors, as well as other information about the 2023 MSAAG annual meeting.

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

Hamil Pearsall, Temple University

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Find more information at our website:

<https://msaag.aag.org/>

**The 2023 Middle States Division AAG Meeting with AAG support will be held
Friday October 27 and Saturday October 28**



Temple University is delighted to host the Middle States Division AAG meeting this year! The meeting will be held in Temple's conference facilities in the Howard Gittis Student Center, located on Cecil B. Moore Ave and 13th Street.

The 2023 meeting will take place over two days and will include paper and poster sessions, two keynote presentations, a graduate school and jobs panel, and the Geography Bowl. Friday will include a keynote, paper and poster sessions, dinner, and Geography Bowl. On Saturday, morning sessions will be followed by a second keynote presentation, buffet luncheon and a brief MSD meeting.

Temple University is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and there are many different hotel options available across the city. **The Conway Inn** is located on Temple's campus if you prefer to be close to the conference facilities.

Hotels <https://campustravel.com/university/temple-university/>

Transportation and Parking: Temple's campus can be accessed by subway, bike share, regional rail, and bus. Please see this link for additional information on traveling to campus: <https://www.temple.edu/maps-and-directions>

While there is free street parking, it can be difficult to find spots close to campus. There are several hourly rate parking garages on campus that are within a short walking distance to Howard Gittis Student Center. The Montgomery Garage located at 1859 N. 11th Street is a large parking facility that is two blocks from the conference facility. The Cecil. B. Moore and Liacouras garages have a daily \$20 rate.

CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS AND PANELS

Paper Sessions are typically 60-80 minutes long and consist of three or four presentations of 15 minutes each, plus a question period. Papers on all topics of geographic nature are welcome. Concurrent paper sessions will be held on Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29. **Students** who are submitting their papers for the paper competition should consult the guidelines under the [Student Competition](#) tab on the website <https://msaag.aag.org/> for guidance. Competition posters require a faculty letter stating the poster is solely the student/s work. Completed papers should be emailed by **October 7** to **Josh Galster** MSAAG Student Competition Chair msaag.secretary@gmail.com

Poster Sessions will be held on both Friday and Saturday. Students who are submitting their poster competition should send pdfs of their poster to the MSAAG Student Competition chair **Josh Galster** msaag.secretary@gmail.com by **October 7th**. Consult poster competition guidelines and the judging rubric under the [Student Competition](#) tab on the website <https://msaag.aag.org/> for guidance. Competition posters require a faculty letter stating the poster is solely the student/s work.

Students presenting papers or posters do NOT have to enter the competitions.

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 hamil.pearsall@temple.edu before **October 7**.

Registration and Abstract Submission

Conference registration is online this year at the AAG portal (aag.org). **To start the process**, you will need to create a free AAG account if you are not a current AAG member. If you are an AAG member, start by logging in.

Then go to the [Registration Link](#)

<https://www.aag.org/events/2023-middle-states-regional-division-meeting/>

You must register for the meeting **before** you submit an Abstract. Abstracts must be submitted through the [AAG Abstract Link](#)

Abstract Submission

Follow instructions “Click [here](#) to begin a new Submission for Middle States Division American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting 2023.”

Be sure to submit your paper or poster abstract by October 7. Participants who register for the conference before October 1 will receive an early bird discount.

Abstracts for papers, posters, and panels must be submitted **AFTER** completing the online registration process through the AAG Abstract portal. The paper or poster 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 7**.

	<u>Ending Sept.30</u>	<u>Starting Oct. 1</u>
Fees		
Faculty Full Registration	\$140	\$180
Student Full Registration	\$50	\$65
Faculty One Day	\$85	\$100
Student One Day	\$30	\$35

Full Registration includes buffet dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. 1 day registration includes 1 meal. No refunds after October 7.

Donations During the registration process, you will be asked for an optional donation to the meeting. Those funds will be used to help defray costs associated with the discounted registration fees provided for all students.

Call for Nominations for MSD 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/Treasurer, Vice President and Regional Councilor**. The **Secretary/Treasurer** serves a one-year term beginning January 2024. The **Secretary/Treasurer** takes minutes at division meetings, organizes and judges the student paper competition at the fall meeting and reports on the Division's finances, which are handled by AAG. The **Secretary/Treasurer** may run for **Vice President** the following year. The **Vice President** position is a three-year commitment. After serving as Vice President, that person becomes 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. The **Regional Councilor** serves a 3-year term, beginning in July 2024 and represents the MSAAG at AAG meetings. The Executive Board will provide all the guidance and resources you need to be successful. Please consider these rewarding opportunities. You may contact or any current board member for additional information. Voting will take place online in October 2023.

Please submit nominations to **Regional Councilor** Schnell@kutztown.edu by September 30.

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 MSDAAG 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 <https://msaag.aag.org/> You may also contact the editors: Adam Kalkstein at Adam.Kalkstein@westpoint.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 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 2022 (Volume 54) may be viewed at the journal website. The 2023 issue (Volume 56) will be available soon. The online format of the journal widely increases accessibility to readers and exposure for authors.,

We are seeking new editors for our journal. If you want to know more about the journal or anything about the rewards and duties of being an editor, please contact Adam or Paul by email.

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

2023 Annual Meeting
Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers
Temple University, Philadelphia PA
October 27-28, 2023

Middle States AAG encourages all graduate and undergraduate students to submit and present research papers to the **Student Paper Competition** of the MSDAAG annual conference. The graduate and undergraduate paper competitions have 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 second prize of \$200 and a third prize of \$100.

There is also a Student Poster Competition with both graduate and undergraduate divisions and first prizes of \$200, second prizes of \$100 and third prizes of \$50. There is a Rob Mason Poster award of \$50 for High School students entering the Poster competition. This award is named after our past Regional Councilor Dr. Robert Mason from Temple University who passed away in 2017. He also served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Division.

Submission Guidelines Student status is as of May 1, 2023. 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 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 under the Student Competitions and *Middle States Geographer* tab at <https://msaag.aag.org/> **Students must have a faculty advisor recommend their entry using the format specified and use the guidelines and rubrics for judging on the website under the tab Student Competitions in preparing their entries.**

Students should register and submit abstracts through the AAG portal once it is announced on the <https://msaag.aag.org/> website in summer 2023. Students entering the **Student Competition** should email completed papers or pdfs of completed posters to **Josh Galster** MSAAG Student Competition Chair at msaag.secretary@gmail.com by **October 7**. Registration fees are refunded for paper/poster competition winners.

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 27 in Philadelphia, PA. 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 April 2024. 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 Megan Heckert mheckert@wcupa.edu

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. Applicants should send their scholarship application of no more than 250 words to **Hamil Pearsall** at hamil.pearsall@temple.edu by **September 15**. Applicants should outline briefly their academic/research background and career goals and how participation in the MSAAG meeting will assist in meeting these goals. A nomination letter from a faculty mentor should accompany the student application. The chosen awardee will receive \$500 in funding towards their travel, meals and lodging costs in attending the Middle States Division Annual Meeting. The registration fees for the awardee will also be waived.