

Constitution of the Geographies of Race, Culture and Equality Research Group

1. The name of this Research Group is: Geographies of Race, Culture and Equality (RACE) Research Group
2. The RACE Research Group aims to promote scholarship on racial inequality, colonisation, decolonisation and whiteness, and encourage dialogue on race that advances academic knowledge and progressive practice. A key priority is to contribute to the decolonisation of teaching curricula and pedagogy, encourage the critical study of race, and support staff in developing innovative approaches to teaching race, racism and racial oppression. We will also draw attention to, research and confront the oppressive racializing and racist forces and structures in faculty, the student body, and institutions of higher education and research in Geography, and promote initiatives that improve the representation, progression, support and experiences of people of colour (or BME groups) in the discipline.
3. The RACERG is a 'branch' of the Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers) and will comply with the aims and policies of the Society, including Equal Opportunity policy, and the legal and Charity Commissioner requirements including the guidance issued by the Charities' Commission on campaigning and political activity by charities. The RACERG must deliver an Annual Report and statement of accounts to the Society demonstrating that these aims and policies are being adhered to.
4. Membership of the RACERG shall be open to all members (including Postgraduate members) of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) who elect to join the Research Group, but shall never be less than 40.
5. Other interested persons who are not members of the RGS-IBG may join the RACERG, subject to approval of the Research Group, for an additional fee collected separately by the RACERG. The RACERG will maintain their own records of these members but must also use the RGS-IBG membership lists when undertaking a mailing to members.
6. The business of the RACERG shall be conducted by a Committee of no fewer than 3 members. Specified roles within the Committee include the following: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. Each of these roles shall be undertaken by members of the RGS-IBG elected by the Group. The Committee will have the power to co-opt [up to two] additional members. The majority of the Committee must be members of the RGS-IBG.
7. Terms of office - The offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and other committee members shall be for a period of three years. Honorary officers may stand for a second term of three years, but must relinquish their post after the sixth year of office. Retiring honorary officers shall not be eligible for re-election as an Ordinary Member of the Committee if they have served for 6 years, without first having a one-year break from the Committee.

Ordinary Committee members shall be elected for a period of not more than three years. Ordinary Committee members may stand for a second term of three years, but must relinquish their post after the sixth year of office.

Postgraduate members shall be elected for a period of one year and shall not normally be eligible for re-election to the Committee for more than three terms of office.

8. Elections to the Committee will be held at the Annual General Meeting. Members will be informed in writing¹ (email is acceptable) 30 days prior to the AGM of all vacancies to be filled. Nominations for

¹ For all requirements in writing, email is acceptable

Committee membership will be accepted up to the beginning of the AGM. Nominations must be in writing and include the names of the proposer and seconder.

9. The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference in late August/September. The RACERG will present an Annual Report and Statement of Accounts to the RGS-IBG as requested. This is to comply with Charity Commissioners guidelines. The Research Group is expected to manage its funds with due care and for the benefit of the membership of the Research Group.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by either the Chair and four members (or all other members if fewer than four in total) of the Committee or by any 20 ordinary members of the RACERG. The Secretary must give at least 30 days' notice of an EGM in writing to all members of the RACERG.

10. The constitution can be changed only by two-thirds majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting, provided that the membership has been individually notified of the proposed changes in writing or by email at least 30 days in advance. Research Group constitutions that have been altered by the AGM of the Research Group should then be submitted for approval by the Research and Higher Education Committee of the RGS-IBG at their next meeting. If the Research Group alters its constitution without informing the Research and Higher Education Committee by the time of its next meeting, the Research and Higher Education Committee will view this matter seriously and consider whether the group is contravening the aims of the RGS-IBG.
11. The activities of the Research Groups should not contravene the aims of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). The RACERG may be dissolved only in accordance with the rules of the RGS-IBG.
12. Current members of the Research Group Committee should familiarise themselves with the latest version of the 'GDPR: Guidance for Research Groups' document, and act according to the principles outlined therein.

Background

The RACE Working Group was established in 2015 to encourage, promote and facilitate research, teaching and positive action on race. We sought to address the contradiction between the breadth of geographical scholarship on race and postcolonialism, and the failure to address race relations and racial inequality within the discipline itself. The current members of the group are interested in race-related research on colonialism / decolonisation, racial oppression, diasporic histories and race in the academy.

We have a strong focus on teaching race: from curriculum diversification to teaching about race. We have explored how attention to race in the curriculum matters to both student experience and a greater understanding of geography. We have been concerned to address recruitment, retention, well-being and attainment of BME students in the discipline. Members of the group are engaged in a diversity of outreach activities across the country, including speaking at schools and museums. They have contributed:

- a special issue in AREA on race and teaching
- book chapters and articles on race and teaching for handbooks and journals
- teaching orientated workshops and events, including pre-conference workshops at the RGS-IBG Annual Conferences
- online teaching resources, including Global Social Theory and collaborative syllabi

At the 2019 conference Pre-RGS-IBG Annual Conference Workshop we are organising a full day pre-conference workshop on black-led archives at the Black Cultural Archives (BCA) in Brixton. This follows our support for the threat of closure facing the BCA.

In the main conference we are supporting eight panel sessions covering *England as diaspora space*, *Geographies for the Wretched of the Earth*, *Doing anti-racist and decolonial geographies in praxis*, *Heteroactivism*, *Homonationalism and National Projects* and an author meets reader event discussing David Simon's *Holocaust Escapees and Global Development: Hidden Histories*.

Our ambition

We believe that we need to broaden our membership by becoming a research group of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers. We plan to carry out the following activities

Post-graduate mentoring events

Annual or bi-annual Writing retreats

Annual lecture and postgraduate lecture at the RGS-IBG

Geography undergraduate curriculum workshop