

2015-16 Annual Report

Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Specialty Group

The American Association of Geographers

I. Mission Statement

Our mission is to foster and maintain interaction, cooperation and community among individuals interested in the analysis of geo-referenced data, modeling of spatio-temporal processes and the use of analytical and computational techniques in solving geographic problems. The specialty group promotes the scientific study of physical, environmental and socioeconomic geography and the development, use and teaching of analytical cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, spatial statistical, mathematical and computational techniques for spatial analysis.

II. Membership Dues

Regular: \$6, Student: \$1

III. Board

<i>Chair</i>	Heejun Chang, Portland State University, 2015-2018
<i>Vice-chair/treasurer</i>	Carson Farmer, University of Colorado, 2016-2019
<i>Board members</i>	Eun-Hye Enki Yoo, University at Buffalo, 2014-2017
	Debbie Ghosh, University of Connecticut, 2015-2018
	Daoqin Tong, University of Arizona, 2016-2019
Student representative	Yolanda J. McDonald, Texas A&M University, 2014-2017

Board member responsibilities

Each SAM Board member takes the leadership of a particular aspect of SAM business. Among the current board members, Vice Chair and Treasurer Carson Farmer is responsible for coordinating work related to the SAM Outstanding Service Award. Student representative Yolanda J. McDonald is responsible for overseeing elections and for maintaining the SAM website. Board member Daoqin Tong edits SAM Newsletters, Board member Eun-Hye Enki Yoo is in charge of organizing student paper competition, and Board member Debs Ghosh is responsible for coordinating work related selecting the 2016 SAM Plenary Lecture speaker. SAM Chair Heejun Chang is responsible for reporting to AAG Council, organizing SAM meeting and SAM-sponsored sessions based on abstracts submitted to each AAG annual meeting, and other related issues.

IV. Accomplishments, Activities, Future Plans and Directions

Activities Scheduled

There were many SAM-related activities held at the recent 2016 AAG meeting in San Francisco. SAM was quite visible, sponsoring or co-sponsoring over 80 sessions. In conjunction with the journal of Geographical Analysis, SAM sponsored a plenary session and Professor Stewart Fotheringham delivered the plenary lecture titled “Dispelling some Myths about Geographically Weighted Regression”. SAM has also successfully organized three student paper sessions.

Changes of SAM Business

There were a few changes announced and decided at the SAM Specialty Group Business meeting in San Francisco. First, SAM has elected the following board members in 2016: Carson Farmer as SAM Vice Chair (to replace previous Vice Chair Anthony Grubestic), Daoqin Tong as board member (to replace outgoing board member Jennifer A Miller). SAM thanks Anthony Grubestic and Jennifer Miller for their great service in their terms.

Second, Heejun Chang (SAM Chair)’s proposal about initiating SAM Specialty Group Emerging Scholar Award was approved at 2016 business meeting in San Francisco. SAM members who attended the business group meeting deferred to the board members to draft the details of selection criteria. Subsequently, SAM board members worked together, drafted a proposal, and sent a call for nomination in summer of 2016.

Third, board members also proposed SAM Student Travel Award, which received favorable comments from the SAM members. SAM board members decided to make four awards each year – two at the masters level and two at the doctoral level. The call for travel award application was sent to the SAM members in fall of 2016.

Student Paper Awards

We decided to give four awards in 2016. The first prize of the SAM student paper competition went to Dara Seidl (San Diego State University; Privacy and False Identification in Geomasking Techniques). The second prize went to Alexander Hohl (University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Accelerated Discovery of Infectious Disease Clusters Using Adaptive Spatiotemporal Domain Decomposition). Two students were awarded third prize: Sy Yeon Han (San Diego State University; Revisiting the Death of Geography in the Social Network Era: Using Social Media (Twitter) to Measure the Effect of Distance Decay on Spatial Interaction between Cyberspace and Real Space) and Debbie Blackmore (Portland State University; A Geospatial Tool for Wetland Prioritization at the Watershed Scale).

The board has decided to request extended abstracts for student paper competition. Together with the quality of the abstract, those who submit the extended abstract will only be invited to participate in the student paper competition. Students are then expected to submit a full paper for full consideration.

Plans for the 2017 Annual Meeting in Boston

We have received requests for SAM sponsorship on many paper sessions for the 2017 Annual Meeting in Boston. In conjunction with the journal of Geographical Analysis, SAM will again sponsor a plenary session to be delivered by Daniel Griffith from University of Texas at Dallas. SAM has devoted much effort in encouraging students to submit their work to SAM student paper competitions. We will keep our momentum and continue our effort to recruit both graduate and undergraduate students to participate in the competition.

Future Plans and Directions

SAM will continue to foster the development and application of spatial analytic methods per its mission statement, and reach out to other AAG specialty groups to develop cross-group thematic paper sessions. SAM will continue to encourage both graduate and undergraduate students to participate in AAG meetings, through various forms including student paper competitions and travel awards. SAM will also seek collaboration with other AAG specialty groups in organizing annual meeting events that are of mutual interest.

V. Membership and Participation

There has been a slight increase in number of SAM members. As of October 2016, there are over 800 members in SAM, making SAM being the fourth largest AAG special groups.

VI. Financial Information

Association of American Geographers
Specialty Groups Financial Report
May 31, 2016

Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
8/31/14	Balance forward			\$ 4,205.44
9/30/14	Dues collected for Sept 2014	184.00		4,389.44
10/31/14	Dues collected for Oct 2014	455.00		4,844.44
11/30/14	Dues collected for Nov 2014	544.00		5,388.44
12/31/14	Dues collected for Dec 2014	134.00		5,522.44
1/31/15	Dues collected for Jan. 2015	218.00		5,740.44
2/28/15	Dues collected for Feb. 2015	160.00		5,900.44
3/27/15	An - reimbursement for 2015 plaques		(127.00)	5,773.44

3/27/15	An - reimbursement for SAM website		(96.00)	5,677.44
3/31/15	Dues collected for March 2015	195.00		5,872.44
4/1/15	AM15 Awards Luncheon Tickets		(350.00)	5,522.44
4/30/15	Dues collected for April 2015	200.00		5,722.44
5/5/15	Parmanand - John Odland Award		(250.00)	5,472.44
5/5/15	Ye - John Odland Award		(250.00)	5,222.44
5/31/15	Dues collected for May 2015	109.00		5,331.44
6/30/15	Dues Collected for June 2015	106.00		5,437.44
7/31/15	Dues Collected for July 2015	127.00		5,564.44
8/31/15	Dues Collected for Aug 2015	123.00		5,687.44
8/31/15	Balance			<u>5,687.44</u>
<i>8/31/15</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>			<i>\$ 5,687.44</i>
9/30/15	Dues Collected for Sept 2015	169.00		5,856.44
10/31/15				
5	Dues Collected for Oct 2015	604.00		6,460.44
11/30/15				
5	Dues collected for Nov. 2015	242.00		6,702.44
12/31/15				
5	Dues collected for Dec. 2015	221.00		6,923.44
1/31/16	Dues collected for Jan. 2016	208.00		7,131.44
2/29/16	Dues collected for Feb. 2016	159.00		7,290.44
3/31/16	Chang - Reimbursement for SAM 2016 Meeting		(110.00)	7,180.44
3/31/16	Dues collected for March	204.00		7,384.44
4/1/16	AM16 Awards Luncheon		(110.00)	7,274.44
4/11/16	Fotheringham - Reimbursement of AM Reg		(295.00)	6,979.44
4/1/16	Blackmore - John Odland Award		(300.00)	6,679.44
4/1/16	Han - John Odland Award		(300.00)	6,379.44
4/7/16	Hohl - John Odland Award		(400.00)	5,979.44
4/7/16	Seidl - John Odland Award		(600.00)	5,379.44

4/30/16	Dues collected for April	95.00	5,474.44
5/31/16	Dues collected for May	181.00	5,655.44
5/31/16	Balance		<u>5,655.44</u>

We believe SAM has maintained a healthy balance sheet and undertaken various tasks effectively under its mission. We thank all SAM members and AAG leadership for their support in the past years, and look forward to serving the SAM community joyfully in the years to come.

This report has been compiled using a template that was modified from the 2013/4 report. SAM board members and AAG officers/staff Patricia Solis, Michelle Ledoux, and Greg Osbur have provided relevant data. We thank all of them for the great help.

Respectfully submitted,

Heejun Chang
Chair, SAMSG, AAG
October 1, 2016