



SPATIAL ANALYSIS & MODELING (SAM) SPECIALTY GROUP STUDENT & EMERGING SCHOLAR PAPER COMPETITIONS

The Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers is sponsoring *THREE PAPER COMPETITIONS* at the 2009 AAG Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Two competitions will be **STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS (graduate and undergraduate)** for any research conducted while a student is at an accredited university. The third will be an **EMERGING SCHOLAR PAPER COMPETITION** for anyone within six years of his/her Ph.D. degree award at the time of the 2009 AAG meeting. Competitions will have a total minimum of \$1000 in prizes. The winner(s) will also be invited to submit their manuscript(s) for publication in *Geographical Analysis*, subject to the standard review process of the Journal.

Papers may be of a theoretical or applied nature. Papers will be judged on the following criteria: i) potential contribution to the use of mathematical models, statistical techniques and other technological and computational approaches for analyzing spatial phenomena in any sub-field of geography; ii) appropriate and sound use of methodology; iii) originality; and, iv) organization and written composition of the paper.

Submission Procedures:

1a) **STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS:** For the graduate level competition, the paper must be a single-authored paper based on research primarily conducted while the student was at an accredited university. Each entrant must submit a statement from a University faculty member, preferably their graduate advisor, attesting that the paper reflects the sole efforts of the entrant. The entrant need not be a student at the time of the 2009 AAG meeting. Graduate papers will be presented in traditional paper sessions. For the undergraduate level competition, the paper must also be based on research primarily conducted while the student was at an accredited university. Multiple authorship for an undergraduate research entry is permitted, provided the submission is accompanied by a statement from a University faculty member attesting to the student's lead role in the research. Again, such entrants need not be students at the time of the 2009 AAG meeting. The undergraduate-level competition will take the form of an illustrated paper/poster session.

1b) **EMERGING SCHOLAR COMPETITION:** The paper must be a single-authored paper whose author is within six years of his/her Ph.D. being awarded from an accredited degree program at the time of the 2009 AAG meeting.

2) An entrant may only participate in one of the three competitions in a given year.

3) Entrants will present their papers in an AAG session sponsored or co-sponsored by the SAM specialty group. Persons wishing to enter the paper competitions should notify Vice-Chair Ed Zolnik (ezolnik@gmu.edu) well **before** the AAG's abstract deadline so that SAM officers can coordinate with the AAG to place competition papers into the appropriate sessions.

4) A panel of judges will review the papers before the AAG meeting. The winner(s), if any, will be announced at the SAM specialty group business meeting and at the AAG Awards Luncheon. Winners should make themselves available to attend the Luncheon. The judges' decision, including the possibility of not awarding a prize, is final.

5) The final version of the paper must be received by FEBRUARY 1, 2009. The cover-page of the paper should contain the name, current affiliation, mailing address, phone number, email and "level" (for student paper competition; e.g., undergraduate, graduate) or place and year of Ph.D. degree (for emerging scholar competition). A second page should repeat the title and contain an abstract. No identifying information should appear anywhere else in the paper, if possible.

6) Papers should be no longer than 35 double-spaced pages, including tables, figures and references.

7) All entries should be submitted in .doc or .pdf format to Ed Zolnik (ezolnik@gmu.edu).