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## EDITORIAL

Knowledge production is marked by collaboration. And so it is with editing the *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. As the geographic scope and ethical complexity of research increases, *Transactions* takes a step towards greater collaboration with the introduction of an editorial collective – a team of four editors of equal standing. Of course, producing *Transactions* has always been a form of collaboration, involving an editor, associate editors, contributors, a publisher, readers, the RGS-IBG, and others. But, by having four equal editors, we can realise a number of shared aspirations: to appreciate the topical, methodological, and political diversity of geographic scholarship; to be closer to contributors; to value collaboration as a professional practice; and to manage the workload that comes with a journal of *Transactions*' size and scope. Geography is now both so expansive and so specialized that it is quite a challenge for one person to deal with the diversity of papers that are submitted to a journal with a wide disciplinary coverage. Having a team of editors with a range of expertise and academic networks allows for the sharing and pooling of these assets. In other words, an editorial collective can more effectively appreciate and represent the diversity of the discipline, and the ability to do so can only strengthen the journal.

We join the team with very diverse professional biographies, so it is worth taking a little time to introduce ourselves. In no particular order: Simon Naylor is a historical geographer in the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, UK. His research interests cover the histories and geographies of science, technology, exploration and the environment. He has more general interests in cultural geography, critical geopolitics and the history and philosophy of geography. Robyn Dowling is an urban geographer in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning at the University of Sydney. Her research uses ecological, political and social theories to examine the inhabitation of cities and urban policies in a climate-changing world. Jo Little is a social geographer working in the Department of Geography at Exeter University, UK. Her areas of interest include rural geography, gender issues and geographies of identity and the body. Much of her work has sought to develop explicitly feminist approaches and to draw attention to gender inequalities. Adrian Bailey trained as a quantitative population geographer and has worked (increasingly in administrative roles) at Dartmouth College, the University of Leeds, and Hong Kong Baptist University. He is inspired by scholarship on migration, transnationalism, place, and temporality, and tries to nurture geography through challenging pedagogy. Just as our own sub-disciplinary interests provide a Venn-diagram-like coverage of the geographical discipline, our respective institutional geographies allow us to pull on wide-ranging regional networks, giving the journal greater reach as well as depth.

While we may bring to this role a diverse set of research interests, institutional contexts and academic experiences, as editors we also have important shared understandings and expectations, especially in relation to the future direction of *Transactions*. Perhaps most important is our desire to maintain the current status of the journal – a status shaped largely by its academic and intellectual strengths. We are committed as editors to ensuring that *Transactions* continues to be regarded as one of the most important international Geography journals, known both for the quality of the individual articles and also its contribution to the development of the discipline and to the communication of new ideas and debates. We are very conscious that *Transactions* is a journal that represents academic work of the highest quality within Geography and cognate disciplines and helps to set new agendas and provides space for cross-disciplinary interactions. Discussing our joint hopes

as editors one of us used the phrase a 'well-spring for academic ideas and energy' within the discipline. Several 'rounds' of discussion later we find ourselves coming back to the phrase as meaningful and appropriate.

In encouraging the generation of ideas and debate (that make their way to us as well-crafted papers), a further shared ambition as editors is to continue to develop and diversify the 'reach' of *Transactions*. As we have noted, one of the challenges we face is the expansive nature of Geography and its close relationship with other disciplines. But, given the orientation of many academic agendas to cross-cutting topics, fields, and politics, it seems timely to transform challenge into opportunity. So we are also committed to broadening not only the subject areas of papers but also the kinds of approaches used, whether that be the methods employed for research or the ways the ideas are recorded, communicated and expressed. In broadening the scope of *Transactions* we seek to provide opportunities for geographic engagement, at the highest level, wherever the action may lead – topically, by field, by location. This means reaching not only parts of the discipline that have been historically less well represented within the journal, but also related disciplines from the social sciences, arts, humanities, and physical sciences.

Of course, succeeding as an editorial collective involving four people scattered across three continents is bound to present some operational challenges. We will draw on the RGS-IBG's human and other resources to develop a system to manage submissions. While one of us will take primary carriage of a specific paper, we should make clear that our specialisms and backgrounds will not always determine how papers are allocated and handled, especially where there might be conflicts of interest. We are also acutely aware of the importance of calibrating our judgments as editors, particularly with regard to outcomes. It is our intention, at least at the outset, for two editors to be involved in the handling of each submission, so that we can forge and refine collective decisions and shared standards. During this time we will also build a consistent style of communication with authors and with each other. And of course we will continue to draw on, and value, the expertise and contributions of the editorial board to maintain continuity. Indeed, one of the logistical advantages of the editorial team is that there are more of us to circulate through the conference and other networking spaces of geographic scholarship. We all hope to be in attendance at the RGS-IBG annual conference, and as a team plan to schedule a greater presence at other regional, subdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary events.

In declaring our collective responsibility as an editorial team to maintain *Transactions'* high standards of integrity and academic output, we acknowledge the work of the outgoing editor, Gavin Bridge. His dedication to the role, his introduction of new initiatives like the Virtual Issues, and his mentoring of some of the incoming team, have made our collaborative approach possible. In appreciating the trust shown by the RGS-IBG, we close by saying that, as editors, we all look forward to learning more from the genuinely global community of geographers about the possibilities for an energised, and collaborative geography.

**Adrian Bailey, Robyn Dowling, Jo Little and Simon Naylor**