

## Candidate Bios for the 2023 APCG Election

### **Fernando J. Bosco, Candidate for President**

Professor and Chair, Department of Geography, San Diego State University

PhD, Geography, The Ohio State University

MA, Geography, The Ohio State University

BA, Geography, Wittenberg University

I am currently serving as APCG vice-president and very happy to be running for the position of president. The APCG is a very special organization that continues to do a lot for our discipline and for our students, who are given new opportunities through different grants and awards. I was introduced to the APCG when I joined San Diego State University by the late Larry Ford, who encouraged me to become active right away. I followed his advice and through the years I have remained involved. I was one of the organizers of the 2009 APCG meeting in San Diego and, for several years now, I have served in the Latina/o American Travel Scholarship committee. I am also involved with the national AAG in different ways. Recent activities on behalf of the AAG have included a couple of AAG Leadership Webinars (2021 and 2022), serving as Nystrom Award Committee member (2020) and serving as a member of the Enhancing Diversity Committee (2016-2018).

My hope is to continue building on the legacy and work of our present and past APCG leadership to make sure our organization remains as vibrant as ever. This is ever so important after the disruptions resulting from the global Covid-19 pandemic. I hope to contribute to enhancing our sense of community so our students and a new generation of geographers can enjoy the APCG meetings and the many networking opportunities our association offers.

#### *About my research and teaching:*

I am a critical human geographer who works at the intersections of urban, social, and political geography. My work in Argentina has focused on the geographic dimensions of human rights activism and the politics of memory. More recently, I have been conducting collaborative research on urban food environments in San Diego, CA, with projects such as young people's food practices and journeys in so-called food deserts, impacts of ethnic stores on food access, and connections between urban agriculture, farmers' markets, and restaurants and processes of displacement and gentrification in the city. My work often involves qualitative methods, including fieldwork and participatory methodologies. I have authored or co-authored over 50 refereed journal articles and book chapters, and I have co-edited three books: *Placing Latin America* (Rowman and Littlefield, 4 editions, last one in 2020), *Food and Place: A Critical Exploration* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2018) and *Young People, Border Spaces and Revolutionary Imaginations* (Routledge, 2011).

My research is deeply connected to my teaching, and I often emphasize the importance of community-based geographic research and critically engaged scholarship. I teach both undergraduate and graduate courses, including introductory courses on human geography, urban geography, regional courses on Latin America, and graduate courses and seminars on networks and relational thinking in human geography, place and the politics of memory, and gentrification, authenticity and consumption in the city.

**Elena Givental, Candidate for Vice President**

Lecturer at CSU East Bay and Berkeley City College

PhD, Geography, UC Davis

MBA, St. Mary's College of California

BS, Geography, Moscow Pedagogical University, Russia

My career trajectory in Geography has been non-linear from the start. I received a professional training as a geography educator in Russia. After graduating, I participated in geological research at Moscow State University doing fieldwork in the Ural Mountains. After immigrating to the United States in 1996, the necessity to establish myself in the new country caused a detour from my former career. My background in education helped me to find a job in a K-8 school where I eventually advanced to a business manager position. However, after completing my PhD in Geography at UC Davis, I shifted to a teaching career while pursuing research in the fields of historical, environmental, and resource geographies travelling to and publishing on the environmental issues in Russia, Vietnam, and Ethiopia. For the last fifteen years, I've been teaching a variety of Geography classes at Berkeley City College and CSU East Bay.

My first encounter with the APCG occurred at the 2007 annual meeting in Eugene, OR, and I've been faithful to this fine organization ever since, participating in almost all annual meetings, judging at the Student Paper/Poster Competition, being the Budget Committee member, and, since 2018, serving as the APCG Treasurer. I am honored to have been a part of the APCG Executive Council.

Geography plays an exclusive role in environmental awareness and education of younger generations. I view the APCG as an important avenue for creating a community of like-minded professionals and attracting young geographers and students in the related disciplines to share their knowledge and research interests. As APCG Vice President, I am planning to focus on expanding the APCG's community college outreach and building up membership as well as strengthening our cooperation with the AAG and other regional Geography organizations.

I would like to thank the APCG community for providing me with the opportunity to be an active participant and I look forward to continuing my association with the APCG.

**Robert T. (Bob) Richardson, Candidate for Treasurer**

Professor Emeritus, CSU Sacramento

PhD, Geography, University of Oregon

MA, Geography, 1966, Louisiana State University

BS, Geography, 1964, University of Wisconsin

Five years ago, I stepped down as Treasurer, after twenty-one years on the job, and was appointed APCG's first Memory Counselor. I promised to work closely with Elena as she took over, which I have done. But she has decided that, rather than re-upping this time around, she would like to stand for Vice President. Knowing how it all works, and having no good excuses, I've agreed to step back into the role of Treasurer. Hey, I'm fully vaccinated and almost a year younger than Joe Biden. What could go wrong?

Post COVID, the APCG needs to build back up. I want to help where I can in the process.