

## SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

Acting presidents: Dr Richard Ballard, Gauteng City-Region Observatory and Prof Luke Sandham,  
Geography and Environmental Management,  
North-West University, South Africa  
NPO 222-089  
Web site: <http://www.ssag.co.za/>



### **Call for applications: Physical Geography editor for the South African Geographical Journal**

The Society of South African Geographers seeks to appoint a South Africa-based editor with expertise in Physical Geography for its flagship publication, the *South African Geographical Journal*.

The Journal is owned by the Society of South African Geographers and is published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis. The Society appoints two editors to run the Journal. In 2019, the Society ran an appointment process for the Human Geography editor, resulting in the appointment of Ass Prof Ashley Gunter (UNISA). In 2020, the Society is running a similar process to appoint a new co-editor with a physical geography specialisation. These appointments are staggered to ensure that new editors can be trained by editors who have experience in the role.

The key tasks of editors are detailed on p3 of this document. The Society provides a small annual honorarium to the editor as a token of appreciation for their services to the Society and the wider geographical community.

Following this open call, an editor will be chosen using the four assessment criteria stipulated on p3 of this document. The appointment is made by the Council of the Society. The Council will be guided by members of the Journal's Editorial Advisory Board who will be asked evaluate all applications submitted before the Council selection.

Editors will be appointed for an initial two-year term, with the option for reappointment for a further period in terms of the Society's constitution.

Interested applicants should submit:

- A concise cover letter summarising the ways in which they meet the four assessment criteria (see p 3 below).
- A copy of their full curriculum vitae, including: (1) evidence for the ways in which the candidate meets the assessment criteria and (2) the names and contact details of three academic references.
- A concise vision statement of how the candidate would like to see the development of the *South African Geographical Journal* in the coming years.

Applications should be sent to the Administrative Officer of the Society, Mrs Sandra Brits (BritsS@ufs.ac.za), Department of Geography, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 9301.

The Society would like to express its sincere appreciation to Prof Trevor Hill, who is in the final year of his term as editor, and Ass Prof Gunter, who is in his first year as co-editor. We regard the journal as a major asset for our Society and we do not take for granted the considerable labour required to sustain it.

Closing date for applications: 7 August 2020

## **SAGJ editors: Key tasks and appointment processes**

### *Key tasks*

To work together with the co-editor, editors of special issues, the publisher, the SSAG Council and the Journal's Editorial Advisory Board to:

- Manage new submissions, read manuscripts to determine reviewability, assign reviewers, manage rejections and revisions, make decisions to accept or reject submissions and help prepare manuscripts for publication.
- Attend SSAG Council meetings, the bi-annual SSAG conference, as well as meetings with the publishing house.
- Ensure the on time publication of SAGJ issues.
- Work with guest editors to offer special issues.
- Work with the publisher on the planning, production and publication of issues.
- Work with the publishing house and the SSAG Council to enhance the status and circulation of the Journal.
- Submit written reports to Council and to the biennial general meeting of the SSAG.
- Give input at SSAG organized workshops on publishing designed for young and emerging academics.

### *Assessment criteria for applicants*

1. **Academic experience:** An editor should be a senior academic with
  - a. a PhD,
  - b. a strong track record as a publishing author (An NRF rating would be an advantage)
  - c. extensive experience in higher education or a research environment including teaching, supervision, postgraduate examination and management experience,
  - d. experience with reviewing and/or editing the work of others,
2. **Willingness and capacity to execute the key tasks of the editor listed above. In practical terms:**
  - a. Be able to dedicate approximately 4-5 hours a week to the Journal.
  - b. Take measures to ensure manuscripts accepted for publication are authentic and that the academic integrity of the SAGJ is ensured.
  - c. Accept or reject submissions without fear or favour.
  - d. Be a details-oriented person.
  - e. Have strong computer, database management, time management and proof reading skills.
  - f. Have strong social, interpersonal and conflict management skills.
  - g. Avoid publishing own work in the journal while editor. This includes manuscripts flowing from work done with students whilst under their supervision.
3. **Geographical expertise:** Candidates must have geographical expertise, with a particular interest in physical geography. Membership of the SSAG and or active participation in SSAG events would be a strong advantage. Past publication in the SAGJ is an advantage but is not essential.
4. **Intellectual vision:** Candidates must have a clear and bold editorial vision that fulfils the mandate of both publishing exceptional new research as well as nurturing a new generation of geographers of the Global South.