



Commission on Geography of Governance

NEWSLETTER
Autumn/Winter
2016

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

Our Commission completed the four year period of activity since Cologne Congress. For me, personally, it means that I finished my second term as a chair and this introduction is the last one prepared by myself. Among the latest activities, I would like to emphasize our sessions in the Beijing IGU Congress, as well as our latest publication outcomes. I also summarize some news concerning the IGU and our Commission, as it is entering into next four year period with some important changes.

The Commission had three days with sessions during Beijing IGU Congress. Although final number of contribution decreased, due to absence of more colleagues that planned to be in Beijing, there was a very interesting variety of fascinating presentations. We had pretty nice global participation, with good mixture in age and gender. We also enjoyed plenary sessions, as well as excursions during and after the congress. Although IGC in Beijing had been a huge event (the largest IGU Congress ever), it was very well organized in an inspiring environment.

The Commission publishing initiatives culminated once again during the previous months. Two important publication projects had been completed – one journal special issue and one monograph. As far as journal special issue is concerned, I would like to thank above all colleagues Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz and Tomasz Kaczmarek, as well as other colleagues and journal editorial team from AMU University in Poznan. They developed a long term effort leading to the completion of a special issue on governance in the scientific journal *Quaestiones Geographicae*. We also appreciate all contributors in this special issue. The second outcome, the scientific monograph (“Local Government and Urban Governance in Europe”) published by Springer, appeared only few weeks ago. In this case, Carlos Nunes Silva had the major role as the first editor. He paid extensive attention to this book for months. On behalf of the Commission and all contributors I would like to express our thanks for his long term work and patience in dealing with various problems related to book editing. We are also grateful to all colleagues from Springer International for their very professional approach to this publication. Many thanks also to all colleagues contributing to this book.

The IGU Congress is always accompanied by set of “news” resulting from meetings of the IGU main bodies. Two important decisions had been adopted that I would like to stress.

The first one concerns the site of the 2024 IGU Congress. It was decided that this congress will be held in Dublin (Ireland), which won over Prague, Melbourne and joint candidacy of Malmö/Copenhagen. The second important decision concerned the change in the position of IGU President, due to the fact that Professor V. Kolossov finished his second term in office. As a result of elections, Professor Yukio Himiyama from Japan is now new president of IGU. For other changes in IGU Executive see www.igu-online.org. Among other issues, important change concerns the strategy for the organization of regional conferences, which will be organized as before only as one event in between two congresses. IGU also introduces new larger conferences „format“ of thematic conferences (starting in 2017).

As far as our Commission is concerned, as a result of the Beijing IGU congress, we are primarily pleased that our Commission will continue. Nevertheless, with respect to IGU rules, there are changes concerning the Commission Chair, as well as extensive changes in the Steering Committee composition. On behalf of all Commission members, I would like to thank all Steering Committee members whose term finished in 2016 (*Eiki Berg, Christine Bichsel, Taro Futamura, Shannon O'Lear, Pushkar K. Pradhan, Andrew Ryder and Xiaohong Zhang*). They very actively contributed to the Commission activities in meeting organization, editorial activities, reviewing of conference contribution etc. I hope that they remain participating in our activities in the future as well. Turning our attention to the future, I would like to congratulate Professor Carlos Nunes Silva for taking position as new Commission Chair. He is working for the Commission for years, and now he will have chance to use his manifold experiences for the Commission even in wider scale. I also congratulate new Steering Committee members - *Jiesheng An, Olga Glezer, Ilona Pálne Kovács, Yosuke Maeda, Bríd Quinn, Peter Schmitt, Anna Trono*. We suppose that they will extend their previous work within the Commission and use their expertise in doing research in various aspects of governance.

Among Commission personal news I would like to share with all members of the Commission the first appointments for honorary membership of the Commission. We consider this as a form to express our gratitude to long-term members, with deep personal involvement in Commission activities. We expect that *Professor Robert J. Bennett, Professor Doris Wastl-Walter and Professor Eran Razin* will remain in close contact with Steering Committee and will provide very important feedback and advisory role in shaping Commission activities also in future.

As “outgoing” chair I would like to thank many other colleagues that work with me, and their contribution to the Commission activities during the period 2008-2016. We are working in a very exciting field, with potential to provide relevant useful results for our societies. I always felt privileged by the opportunity to act as a Commission chair. I tried to do my best, although I am fully aware of many limitations in my work. I believe that I can still contribute a bit, as Steering Committee member in future.

With best

Ján Buček, November 2016, Bratislava, Slovakia

COMMISSION SESSIONS DURING IGU 2016 CONGRESS IN BEIJING

The Commission sessions in the 2016 IGC were very successful. Our Commission activities lasted three days and were organized into four sessions:

- *Geography of Governance - In Search for More Inclusive Governance*
- *Geography of Governance - Environmental Governance – Spaces, Actors and Powers*
- *Geography of Governance - Citizen E-participation in Local Governance*
- *Geography of Governance - Innovations in Public Sector, Public Administration and Public Services.*

The original interest to participate in our sessions exceeded 50 presentations (abstracts submitted). From these, 43 papers and 5 posters were accepted for the Congress. Finally, during the main congress programme we had 26 interesting and well elaborated papers, representing researchers based in 15 countries all around the world. Unfortunately many participants could not take part from various reasons (mostly due to insufficient funding). All contributions were allocated into eight time slots. The session focusing on environmental governance was the largest one in number of papers presented. As usual, besides well experienced scholars, or long term members of the Commission, we were very pleased by participation of many young scholars, primarily PhD students.

The attendance during our sessions oscillated from 15 to 30 persons, reflecting the capacity of the room in which we were based during the Congress. A reasonable number of presentations per time slot (mostly 3-4), leaved enough time for comments and questions. We were very pleased by a friendly and open minded atmosphere. As an advantage we consider the fact that all our sessions were held in one room and in consecutive time slots, immediately after the opening of the Congress. During the sessions we enjoyed excellent assistance by young volunteers, with Lianglin Liao working for us during all sessions. I would like to thank the Beijing IGC organisers for their long term involvement and communication concerning the preparation of our sessions. The organization of the Congress in general, as well as the flexibility applied in the running of our sessions are highly esteemed.

Contributions presented:

Huashu Bao, Deming Jiang, Yiming Li (Yunnan University, China) - Study on the Structural Optimization of Land Use Quantity Based on Ecological Land Constraints—A Case Study of Lushui county, Nujiang City

Robyn Bartel (University of New England, Armidale, Australia) - Place-Thinking: the Hidden Geography of Environmental Law

Robyn Bartel (University of New England, Armidale, Australia) - Place-Speaking: Attending to the Relational, Material and Governance Messages of Silent Spring.



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Ján Buček (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia) - Why and When Countries Implement Public Administration Reform

Bolorchuluun Chogsom, Tsogtdulam Munaa (Department of Geography, National University of Mongolia, Mongolia), Narantuya Davaa (National University of Mongolia, Mongolia) - GIS Enabled E-governance

Marek Degórski (Institute Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland) - Ecosystem Services as A Factor for Trajectory Strengthening of Region's Development and Well-being - Environmental Governance

Alexandru Dragan (West University of Timisoara, Romania) - Local Governance, Non-Governmental Organizations and Vulnerable Groups. A Multi-scale Approach in Western Romania

Alexander Follmann (University of Cologne, Germany) - Governing Delhi's Riverscapes: Conflicts of Interest, Power and Knowledge Asymmetries in Urban Environmental Governance

Olga Glezer (Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation) - Communities Which are Not Included in Local Self-Governance: A Case Study of North Caucasus Republics of Russia

Zoltan Hajdu (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary) - Insoluble Intergovernment Political Issues: Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Dams

Sahim Abdalla Jima (University of Science and Technology of China, China) - Environmental Challenges Associated with Development of Socio Economic Activities in East African Countries Comparative Study with China.

Ilona Pálné Kovács (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary) - Changing Patterns of Local Public Service Provision in Hungary

Pingyang Liu (Fudan University, China), Neil Ravenscroft (Brighton University, United Kingdom) - Assessing the Implementation of the 'Coordinating Urban and Rural Construction Land' Policy in China

Kevin Lo (Hong Kong Baptist University, HongKong SAR, China) - How Authoritarian is China's Low-carbon Governance? A Local Perspective

Brij Maharaj (University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa) - The Case for a Geography of Corruption

Qianqing Mai, Harriet Bulkeley (Durham University, United Kingdom), Simon Marvin (Sheffield University, United Kingdom) - Going 'Smart' in New Towns: Reflective Tales of Milton Keynes and Nansha



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Adina Matisoff (UCLA, United States) - The Block 113 Dialogue: A Chinese Oil Company's Foray into Participatory Governance in Peru

Warwick Murray, John Overton (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand), Johannes Rehner (Pontifices Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile) - Assembling the Periphery: Moving out of Resource Curse in Chile and New Zealand

Soyoung Park, Yoonmo Sung (National Geographic Information Institute, South Korea) - Governance of National Positioning Framework in Korea

Harbans Singh (Panjab University, India) - Quality of Spatial Structure of Administrative Areas in India: A Case Study of Punjab

Ju Han Zoe Wang (University of Sydney, Australia) - Participatory Natural Resource Management in Rural China: Making Indigenous/Community Narratives

Wenling Wang, Yan Feng (Asian International Rivers Center, Yunnan University, China) - The Mechanism of Social-Ecological Systems changing in Upper Irrawaddy River Basin

Li Tongsheng, Luo Yali (Northwest University, China) - Technology Diffusion of Agricultural Science and Technology Park

Lili Xiang (University of Leeds, United Kingdom) - Educational Equality and Accessibility to Community Education Facilities: A Case Study of Beijing

Tong Xin (Peking University, China) - Governance for Sustainable Transition: Reflection on a Community Recycling Initiative

Maocheng Zhen, Xiaolu Gao, Haihong Yuan (Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS, China) - Assessment of the Environmental Efficiency (EE) of Urban Industrial Concentration Areas: the Case Study of Beijing

Congress details:

2016 IGU International Geographical Congress „Shaping Our Harmonious Worlds“

Date: 21-25 August, 2016

Organised by: Geographical Society of China and International Geographical Union

Conference Venue: China National Convention Center, Beijing

e-mail: IGC2016@igsnr.ac.cn

website: <http://www.igc2016.org/dct/page/1>



LATEST OUTPUTS PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Within the Commission activities framework, two main outputs had been completed during previous months:

Carlos Nunes Silva and Ján Buček (editors), 2017. *Local Government and Urban Governance in Europe*. Springer International Publishing, 2017, 265p.

ISBN 9783319439792, 9783319439785

DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-43979-2

For more visit <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319439785>

Special issue in journal *Quaestiones Geographicae*

Edited by Strykiewicz, Tadeusz; Kaczmarek, Tomasz; Buček, Ján

Volume 35, Issue 2, June 2016

Full texts are available at: <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/quageo.2016.35.issue-2/issue-files/quageo.2016.35.issue-2.xml>

FORTHCOMING MAIN EVENTS DURING PERIOD 2017-2020

The aim of the Commission is to have its own annual meetings, more narrowly focused workshops, and to participate in all main IGU events. The Steering Committee will plan future activities for 2017-2020 in more detail during the forthcoming months. We will consider the participation of the Commission in thematic conferences, a new form of IGU conference, between congresses and regional conferences. Nevertheless, it is already clear that our Commission will organize its sessions within IGU Regional Conference in Québec and in IGU Congress in 2020 in Istanbul, Turkey.

2018

IGU Regional Conference

Theme: „*Appreciating Difference/Apprécier la différence*“

Date: August 6 to 10, 2018

Place: Québec City, Canada

Venue: Québec City Convention Centre,

For more see: <http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/>

2020

IGU Congress, August 2020, Istanbul, Turkey

For more see: <http://www.igc2020istanbul.org/?page=homepage>



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COMMISSION NEW STEERING COMMITTEE FOR PERIOD 2016-2020

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