### **NEWSLETTER**

## Autumn 2012

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Dear Colleagues,

our commission successfully completed very active year. Within less than a year (since October 2011 to August 2012) we had four major meetings (Santiago, Kathmandu, Lisbon, Cologne) focusing on various challenging issues. We had very good participation in all of them. It altogether represents more than 130 papers and about 160 authors. This is quite impressive outcome that reflects large interest paid to development in the field of geography and governance. As our last meeting is concerned, we had good participation on our sessions hold during IGC in Cologne 2012. The Commission had been working for three days in nine time slots. We believe that our commission will be serving as important platform for sharing scientific results also in next years.

IGU congresses are not only key scientific events, but at the same time, they are important in evaluation of each commission activity. Congress meetings of IGU bodies are decisive for commissions' future. The most important outcome of these processes is that our commission previous activities had been accepted and our Commission had been approved for next period 2012-2016. Besides activities you are briefly informed in our newsletters, I can add that our commission has more than 400 corresponding members representing 49 countries in this moment. For next period, we decided for minor changes in composition of the Commission Steering Committee. It is predominantly consequence of IGU rules supporting circulation of membership in the Steering Committee. These changes also respect our planned activities, global coverage and reflect previous involvement in various Commission activities. His work as Steering Committee member finished Professor Eran

# Geography of Governance

Razin (Israel). On behalf of the Commission, I would like to express our appreciation for his contribution to the Commission functioning. He substantially shaped our activities for a very long period. His involvement concerned as scientific profile of the commission, as well as its organisational, or editorial work. We believe that he will be sharing his experiences with us also in future. I also would like to express our thanks to Professor Shii Okuno (Japan), for working with us during previous period. As you can see at the end of this Newsletter, there are new Steering Committee members representing Japan (Taro Futamura), Poland (Tomasz Kaczmarek) and Portugal (Carlos N. Silva).

During next period of the Commission functioning in 2012-2016, we would like to continue in organizing our meetings in two ways. There will be meetings covering wider range of topics, as well as more narrowly focused thematic meetings. Our intention is to protect global nature of the Commission work. It will be expressed by organizing meetings in various parts of the world. It offers good and accessible opportunity for participation of scholars working in various parts of the world. We will be very pleased by participation of scientist covering issues of governance in various perspectives. It concerns our permanent effort to invite scholars working not only in geography (e.g. within other IGU commissions), but also in "neighbouring" disciplines. During previous years, we were quite successful in attracting young scholars and PhD students to participate in Commission activities. We will be thinking on forms of support for their deeper involvement in our work. As far as our publishing activities are concerned, a set of publications is under preparation. I would like to thank Andrew Ryder, Pushkar K. Pradhan, Eran Razin and Carlos N. Silva for their long term editorial effort. We would like to complete these publications soon and enhance our publication activities in forthcoming years. Among frequently mentioned opportunities, how to multiply our network and experiences, it is to shift them into international research projects and compete for funding for innovative projects related to goals of the Commission.

I would like to thank many other colleagues for their contribution to the Commission activities during 2008-2012. We are working in very exciting field, with potential to provide relevant results useful for our societies.

With best wishes

Ján Buček, December 2012, Bratislava

#### **COMMISSION SESSIONS DURING IGU 2012 CONGRESS IN COLOGNE**

The Commission sessions within 2012 IGC were quite successful. We were working according to three sessions as announced earlier:

- Governance key theoretical and methodological issues, main research directions
- Innovations in public sector public administration reforms, public sector reorganizations, local finance and progress in planning
- Governing development in regions, cities and rural communities



Finally, we could listen 28 interesting and well elaborated papers. They were organised into nine time slots that spread across three days. Besides well experienced scholars, we were very pleased by participation of many young scholars, mostly PhD students. The attendance during our sessions oscillated from 15 to 45 persons. While some of participants stayed within our sessions for more time slots, we also enjoyed occasional participants staying with us during selected sessions. We were very pleased by friendly atmosphere and participation of very enthusiastic scholars. It confirmed e.g. willingness to listen and discuss papers until the end of the last time slot in the evening. Among participants on ours sessions we could see large number of commission members including former chairs and steering committee members as Robert J. Bennett, Max Barlow, or Doris Wastl-Walter. We also would like to say thank to Professor Peter Dostál from Charles University in Prague, and former Steering committee member, for substantial contribution as key discussant during most of our sessions.

We would like to express our thanks to IGC organisers for their long term assistance in preparing our sessions. We avoided too many withdrawals and our meeting rooms were always prepared, with keen volunteering assistants prepared to help. All services provided had been excellent during the congress.

Selected photos taken during our sessions are presented at our commission web.

#### Presented contributions:

Balodis, Janis (University of Latvia) - *Military territorial structures of Latvian borderland:* comparison past and contemporary situation

Bennett, Robert J. (University of Cambridge) - Changing governance regime for business partners in regional and local development: The past and future of chambers of commerce

Bickert, Matthias – (Universität Bamberg) - Southeast European World Heritage cities in postsocialism – an analysis of governance and heritage management in Gjirokastër (Albania)

Brenner, Lutger (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Mexico City) - Seeking Environmental Governability in Mexican Protected Areas: from top-down to participatory approaches

Buček, Ján (Comenius University Bratislava) - The role of central state in regional self-government building in post-socialist conditions. The case of Slovakia

Dittrich, Monika; Bleischwitz, Raimund (Wuppertal Institute) - Coltan from Central Africa, international trade and implications for any certification

Dohnke, Jan (Freie Universität Berlin) - Participation and market-driven development

Federwisch, Tobias (iq consult) - Framework Governance: A Perspective of Political Steering in Geography

Ferenc, Mariola (Polish Academy of Sciences) - Suburbanization during the period of systemic transformation - case study of Lublin

Grundel, Ida (Karlstad University) - Branding regions

Guidugli, Odeibler (University of State of Sao Paulo) - Aging in small paulista municipalities (< 10 000 inhabitants) means better quality of life? The role of local administrations — 1980 - 2010



Hill, Richard (University of Cape Town) - The Art of Mutual Adjustment and the Science of Critical Rationality: Theory for Reaching Decisions in Environmental Assessment

Hubl, Angelika (Universität Frankfurt) - Dealing with the requirements of producing exploitable knowledge - Differences between social and natural sciences. Case study in an Argentinean Peripheral Research Institute

Klimanov, Vladimir; Mikhaylova, Anna (Institute for Public Finance Reform Moscow) - Fiscal strategies of Russian regions and municipalities

Knie, Christine (Universität zu Köln) - Peri-urban development in Yogyakarta – an introduction of challenges and solutions of autonomous districts in Indonesia

Krannich, Sascha (Princeton University) - *Indigenous Migrantion and Development: Oaxaca* and Chiapas in a Comparative Perspective

Lois-Gonzales, Rubén Camillo; Macia, Carlos; Feal Pérez, Alejandra; Paül, Valerià (University of Santiage de Compostela) - The regional adoption of the European Growth Plan for coming out of the crisis: the challenging translation of the Europe 2020 Strategy to the regional scale

Mikula, Lukasz (Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan) - 'Best mayors', 'best governments' or 'best cities'? Methods for assessing the quality of local governments in major Polish cities

Plyusnin, Viktor, Kravchenko V. (Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences); Hoppenstedt, A., (Technical University Berlin); Wende, W., May, A. (Technical University Dresden) - Improvement of environmental quality governance in the Russian Federation based on the integration of European experience

Raimbault, Nicolas; Debrie, Jean (IFSTTAR – Université Paris Est) - Urban project spaces in French river cities: which governance?

Sato, Keiko (Kyoto University) - Social order and economic upheaval in Indian rural community: evidences from village festivals in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu, India

Shu, Kesheng; Scheffran Jürgen; Schneider Uwe (University of Hamburg) - Bioenergy for sustainable development in developing countries - A Jiangsu perspective

Stead, Dominic (Delft University of Technology) - *If all governance is territorial, is territorial governance anything more than just governance?* 

Šuška, Pavel (Slovak Academy of Sciences) - Politics of the built environment transformation in a post-socialist city

von Löwis, Sabine (Centre Marc Bloch) - Spatial Governance between Stability and Change - Case of the Metropolitan Region Hamburg

Wegner, Antje (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) - Intra- and intercommunal disparities of communal infrastructure in rural Vietnam – A multilevel analysis based on the Vietnamese Housing and Living Standard Survey 2008

Winkler, Andreas (University of Bamberg); Takac, Zoltan (Scientific Association for Hungarology Subotica) - Regional policy and regional disparities — Institutionalisation of spatial development in Serbia with focus on the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina



Zembri-Mary, Geneviéve (Université de Cergy-Pontoise) - Is the treatment of risks different in the case of public and public-private transport projects? The case of high speed railway projects (TGV) in France

#### **Congress details:**

32nd International Geographical Congress Cologne

Date: 26 – 30 August 2012

Organized by: IGU and Universität zu Köln, with DGfG

Venue: Universität zu Köln Place: Cologne (Köln), Germany

## 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WITHIN IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN KYOTO, JAPAN

This year annual meeting of our Commission will be held in Kyoto, within the framework of the IGU Regional Conference (Kyoto Regional Conference) on 4-9 August 2013. You are kindly invited to participate in this top geographical scientific event organised in very inspiring place. Our meetings will be organised during the main conference programme. We are attempting to follow the conference main theme focusing on traditional wisdom and modern knowledge for the Earth's future. Our sessions within this regional conference will be under one main umbrella session title –

#### "Traditions and innovations in governance – better meet the needs of people".

We take into account that existing modes of governance are often results of search for the best possible combination of traditions and innovations. We should understand how traditional forms of governance can be successfully incorporated into current changing governance at various spatial levels. There are many traditional governance structures and actors that are active, as well as those that were replaced under the pressure of social changes. New developments are accompanied by new institutional arrangements, new actors and their networks. It is important to know, to which extent localities and regions are adopting their governance and protect their role in serving needs of the people. Such "needs" as democracy, service delivery, local development, local resources sustainability, or quality of life in urban or rural environment face challenges of societal transformations, administrative reforms, inter- governmental shifts, or various kinds of global processes. Comparative and country studies, as well as case studies addressing the latest changes in governance are especially important in times of crisis and financial scarcity, when efforts to satisfy needs of various groups of people are threatened.

Participants should carefully read instructions and requirements of KRC organisers. Online registration for the Kyoto Regional Conference (KRC) already started in October 2012, at <a href="http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/">http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/</a>. Abstract submission deadline is January 15th, 2013. The Organizing Committee of the Kyoto Regional Conference will accept online abstract



submissions only. Results of abstract reviewing will be available on March 31st, 2013. For abstract submission, after registration, please select "Commission Session" and then choose our Commission Session. Submitted papers will be organised into time slots according to thematic proximity.

Those intending to attend the KRC need to register and pay in full in advance. The Organizing Committee has worked hard to keep the registration fees to a minimum. Nevertheless, remember that you can have *reduced registration fees if paid before April 10th, 2013*. Standard registration fees in 55.000 JPY. There is substantial reduction in fees for students. They also can use opportunity to compete for travel and accommodation grants for young scholars, preferably from less developed countries. For more useful details, visit web of the IGU regional conference. There is also available package of information in second circular, also available in electronic version on conference web.

Date: 4-9 August 2013 Location: Kyoto, Japan

Organised by: National Committee of Japan for IGU and Organising Committee

Web: <a href="http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/">http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/</a>

# WORKSHOP ON FINANCIALIZATION AND GOVERNANCE IN BRATISLAVA - COMMISSION CO-ORGANISED EVENT IN EUROPE IN 2013

While main commission event will be its annual meeting organised within KRC in August 2013, we decided to offer our members another opportunity to participate on scientific event in Europe. Taking into account large group of our commission members working in the field intersecting governance and finance, we are entering into joint initiative with scientists dealing with geography of finance working within Regional Studies Association. We altogether are aware that current governance is strongly influenced by financial issues. It is not only financial crisis, but now predominantly debt crisis that substantial intervene into practices of governance. Local finance, local and regional development, public services delivery are changing under this influence and many new innovations and responses are emerging. There is growing number of research under progress in this multidisciplinary field, so we would like to offer suitable platform for debating these new developments. We suppose to organise this meeting focusing on "Financialization and Governance" in Bratislava (Slovakia) on May 15-17 2013.

It should be accessible meeting, for those actually doing research in fields relevant to workshop theme, using Comenius University facilities, with no fees, but reflecting and debating the latest achievements.

More details will be available during January and February.

Date: 15-17 May 2013

Venue: Comenius University, Department of Human Geography and Demography,

Place: Bratislava, Slovakia



#### **COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN 2014**

Main commission activities in 2014 will be linked to IGU Regional Conference, which will be held in second half of August (18-22 August 2014) in Krakow, Poland. Reflecting earlier announcement, we used this opportunity to invite our commission members to Poland. Following our previous experiences, we will have two consecutive meetings. First event will be our annual conference held in Poznan. The second one will be our sessions within Regional Conference in Krakow. Those interested to participate can participate on each one separately, or participate on both of them.

We will have our **2014 annual conference** prior to the Krakow Regional Conference. It will be held in **Poznan, Poland** with preliminary dates **14-16 August 2014**. We will be hosted by our colleagues from Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU). It is expression of our tribute to their long term involvement in the Commission activities, truly since its beginning. While sometimes it was e.g. Teresa Czyz, during the last period we were many times pleased by participation of Tomasz Kaczmarek, Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz, or Lukasz Mikula, not mentioning other colleagues from Poznan. We already know our colleagues in Poznan as excellent organisers. The conference will be organised under main theme:

#### "New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance"

The venue of the conference will be new buildings of AMU geography in Marasko campus. Altogether with conference organizers, we will attempt to have reasonable conference fees and total costs. We suppose to have two days with sessions, and one day field trip/excursion in Poznan and its surroundings. There will be another excursion day "across Poland" on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014, also serving as transfer from Poznan to Krakow, the place of IGU Regional Conference. It allows interested participants to continue without any complications on this event.

Due to the tradition that our commission is regularly presented during the IGU Regional Conferences, we will organise sessions also there, within main programme. It also allows participate on Commission activities for those that will not attend our meeting in Poznan and will prefer to participate in Krakow regional conference.

For both 2014 events more details will be provided later, in next newsletters.

Summary of planned events in 2014:

2014 Annual conference - "New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance"

Date: 14-16 August 2014

Place, venue: Poznan, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

2014 – IGU Regional Conference – "Changes, Challenges, Responsibility"

Date: 18-22 August 2014

Place, venue: Krakow, Jagiellonian University, Poland



#### **NEW STEERING COMMITTEE 2012-2016**

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