



**International Geographical Union
Commission on Political Geography**

www.igu-cpg.unimib.it

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Chair's Column

Dear Commission Members, Friends and Colleagues

We are opening the 2013 with many novelties: a new IGU president (a political geographer!), a new Commission, new members of the Commission, a new website, a new Chair, even a brand new group of "young members", including some of the most active and enthusiastic young scholars in the field of Political Geography.

The new IGU President, for the 2012-2016 term, is Vladimir Kolosov, a geographer that many of you already know for having been the Chair of this Commission and for being a prominent scholar in the field of Political Geography. Vladimir was elected at the 32th International Geographical Conference DOWN TO EARTH, Cologne (Köln), Germany, August 26-30, 2012. In the same venue, I was elected as the new Chair (the first woman to chair our Commission) and the membership of the Commission has been revised. Some of the former members decided to step down or simply had to do so to comply with the IGU Statute as they had already spent 12 years in the Commission, as did our chair Anton Gosar. We thank all of them, as well as Carl Dahlman who was the webmaster of the Commission for many years, for their precious contribution to the Commission activities.

Five members (Takashi Yamazaki, Paul Reuber, Alexandru Ilies, Alec Murphy, Stéphane Rosière), continue working with the Commission and their experience will be very helpful. New members have been appointed in order to cover different geographical areas, but also, what is more relevant, different strands in Political Geography. So, welcome on board to a group of scholars who do not need presentations: Simon Dalby, James Sidaway, Oren Yftachel, Ian Wendt, and Virginie Mamadouh, who will act as Secretary for the Commission. We also welcome Anna Casaglia, a young Italian Political Geographer, who is now handling the new website. Finally the new commission has asked Anton Gosar, our former Chair of the Commission, to become Honorary Member and Vice Chair of the Commission. We thank him for accepting to remain associated with the Commission, and for all the efforts he made during his mandate, in order to promote the Political Geography through our Commission.

Last but not least, the Commission has invited a group of "Young members", a group of scholars, academically young, but very active in the field. We trust in their enthusiasm and initiative to help us advance political geography in and beyond the IGU.

Altogether, we will try to open the Commission to new initiatives, to connect it with other networks, and to inaugurate a phase of cross fertilization with other IGU Commissions, with other geographical associations, with other branches of geography, with other disciplines and studies. Altogether, we would like to cover the breadth of our subdiscipline and its fascinating fields of research, ranging from the History of Political Geography, through Critical Geopolitics, to Environmental Security. We would like to rethink old concepts under erasure, such as territory, sovereignty, or citizenship, to face urgent topics such as the geography of power or new urban political geographies, to explore new methodologies and approaches in research.

Starting such a big program is not easy. We could begin in Kyoto, where the 2013 IGU Kyoto Regional Conference (KRC) will be held on August 4-9, 2013, and eight sessions on Political geography are organised, plus a fascinating post conference fieldtrip to Okinawa organised by Takashi Yamazaki. We'll go further could go on, working together with established research groups in the field, as it will happen at the first general Conference of the EU-FP7 project EUBORDERSCAPES (2012-2016), to be held in Bergamo, 4-5 July 2013; offering sessions inside other Associations' Conferences (for instance at the AAG Annual Meeting to be held in Los Angeles, 9-13 April 2013, the IV EUGEO Congress, to be held in Rome, 5-7 September 2013); or at other large conferences (like the 20th Conference of Europeanists to be held in Amsterdam, 25-27 June 2013), or organising specific seminars as activities of the Commission, such as the meeting planned in Eugene, Oregon, on the theme of *Political Geography and the Environment*, in June 2014.

With so many things to do, we could start right now. In Italy, we would say: "Rimbocchiamoci le maniche" (Let's roll up our sleeves!)

Elena dell'Agnese

Past activities

IGU PRE-CONFERENCE: SPATIALISING THE (GEO)POLITICAL: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS PRECONFERENCE 2012, FRANKFURT AM MAIN, ON 24/25 AUGUST 2012 (Veit Bachman)

The conference *Spatialising the (Geo)Political: Political Geography and Critical Geopolitics Preconference 2012*, held in Frankfurt am Main on 24/25 August 2012, was jointly organized by the Department of Human Geography of Goethe-University Frankfurt, the Arbeitskreis Politische Geographie and the Political Geography Specialty Group of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and sought to bring together scholars of political geography and critical geopolitics prior to the International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Cologne. It was organised in two parallel strands; the first of which addressed processes of integration and disintegration of the nation state in light of a changing territorial order of the world political map and included a plenary lecture by Alexander B Murphy entitled “Trapped in the Logic of the Modern State System? European Integration in the Wake of the Financial Crisis” □ (see Murphy, forthcoming in *Geopolitics*). The second strand answered to a more open call for papers from critical geopolitics four years after the Critical Geopolitics 2008 conference at Durham University, focusing on relations between the geopolitical and seemingly mundane practices. Contributions addressed how the geopolitical is enacted in local settings and how specific personal, social and institutional arrangements shape the geopolitical and included a plenary lecture by Joanne Sharp on “Geopolitics at the margins? Reconsidering genealogies of critical geopolitics” (see Sharp, forthcoming in *Political Geography*).

The conference was attended by about 40 scholars.

ACTIVITIES OF THE IGU COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY ON THE IGC 2012 IN COLOGNE, GERMANY (Paul Reuber)

The IGU Commission on Political Geography had a highly successful scientific exchange at the IGC in Cologne. It organized 7 sessions which were very

well attended by between 80 – 100 scholars each. The papers presented lead to lively and vibrant discussions over a wide range of topics and research fields of Political Geography representing both ongoing theoretical debates as well as empirical case studies.

Session 1 on “Environmental Geopolitics and Climate Change” was chaired by Jürgen Oßenbrügge (Hamburg). The presented papers discussed a range of topics like the imaginative geographies of climate wars (Benedikt Korf, Zurich), geoengineering as techno-political assemblage (Thilo Wiertz, Heidelberg) and the role of environmental dystopias in the field of popular geopolitics (Elena dell’Agnese, Milano).

Session 2 on “Conflicts over natural resources” (Chair: Paul Reuber, Muenster) addressed several issues with different theoretical approaches ranging from political ecology to conceptions of social movement agency. Case studies were presented on the political geography of water conflicts in India (Michael Brinkschröder, Muenster), on a comparison of China’s south-north water diversion and Spain’s Ebro water transfer (Teresa Sprague, Dortmund), on Tamil fisheries cooperatives societies and their struggle for inclusion in northern Sri Lanka (Joeri Scholtens, Amsterdam) and on conflicts around biofuels in Brazil (Elisa Freitas, São Paulo).

Session 3 focused on “Conceptual approaches and theoretical debates within Political Geography” (Chair: Annika Mattisek, Heidelberg). Following ongoing debates one of the presentations emphasized the relationship of representations and practises using the broader framework of systems theory (Frank Meyer, Leipzig). A second strand of theoretical discussions in the papers was centred around debates on “post-politics” and their implications for political geographical research. Two case studies were presented: the first one dealing with new forms of disagreement in urban development conflicts (Iris Dzudzek, Frankfurt) the second analyzing spatial practices in Milan autonomist movements (Shinya Kitagawa, Osaka)

Session 4 on “The (Geo-)Politics of Identity” (Chair: Anton Gosar, Primorska) brought together case studies from very different geographic

scales. The issues in the papers ranged from symbolic and iconic representations in the construction of national identity in Turkmenistan (Hendrik Meurs, Heidelberg) and multiconfessional identities in Albania (Peter Jordan, Austria), both on the level of nation-states, to more specific issues like the mapping of neoliberal Bavarian regional identities (Gregor Glötzl and Holger Lehmeier, Bamberg) and the critical geopolitics of global management gurus (Sami Moisiso, Oulu).

Session 5 addressed the ongoing and politically explosive conflicts and revolutions in the Near and Middle East (Session chair: Vladimir Kolosov, Moscow). Besides a broader regional overview on geostrategic aspects of the current conflicts in the Middle East (Philippe Boulanger, Cergy-Pontoise) the papers discussed the Gaza - West Bank disconnect and its impact on Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution (Aharon Klieman, Tel-Aviv) and specific political and social implications of the fences and walls between Israeli and Palestinian territories (Nurit Kliot, Haifa).

Session 6 focussed on the "political geographies of the European Union" (Chair: Georg Glasze, Erlangen). Two papers addressed topics concerning EU-politics. Tobias Chilla (Luxembourg) introduced a new tool of European Governance, the "European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation" initiative. Merje Kuus (British Columbia) outlined the transnational political geographies of knowledge in the EU capital of Brussels. Two further papers concentrated on border issues, one of them reporting on the securitization of borders (Amaël Cattaruzza, Saint-Cyr), another focussing on the specific conditions of transborder openness of companies in divided cities at the Polish-German and Polish-Czech border (Sylvia Dotzblasz, Wrocław).

Session 7 was dedicated to a set of case studies in Political Geography which used quantitative methods for their approaches and field work (Chair: Anton Gosar, Primorska). Vladimir Kolosov (Moscow) presented critical and functional approaches in geopolitics using the example of geopolitical visions of the world. A case study from the Puszta region showed how gerrymandering can be a strategic tool of power

politics (Zoltán Kovács, Szeged). For the Czech Republic, Tomáš Kostecký (Czech Academy of Sciences) presented an analysis of the historical roots of contemporary voting patterns in the Czech Republic. From the perspective of international relations Andrii Fedchuk (Kiev) outlined lessons learned from the Antarctic Treaty System against the background of a semi-centennial Antarctic governance.

THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL 'LODZ' CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY ON THE EASTERN DIMENSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, SEPT 12-14 2012
(Marek Sobczynski)

The 13th International 'Lodz' Conference on Political Geography on The Eastern Dimension of the European Union was held in Chelm (Poland) and Lutsk (Ukraine) at September 12–14, 2012.

The organizers were: Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies University of Lodz, Silesian Institute in Opole, Polish Geographical Society Branch of Lodz, The State School of Higher Education in Chelm and Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University in Lutsk (Ukraine). The conference was held under patronage of International Geographical Union Commission of Political Geography. 51 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine and USA, has 25 papers in 6 sessions.

The substantive aim of the conference was a discussion over the issue concerning the eastern dimension of the United Europe. Most of all the following problems were raised:

Eastern politics of the European Union, Historical dimension of the East-West relations in Europe, Relation between EU member-countries and East European Region Economical conditions of the East-West relations in Europe, European integration processes from the Ukrainian perspective, National and religious diversification and EU-EE relations

In the last session Tadeusz Marszał (moderator), Gideon Biger, Milan Bufon, Marie-France Gaunard-Anderson, Krystian Heffner, William R. Stanley, Jernej Zupančič, Ryszard Żelichowski, and Marek Sobczyński tried to summarize the main topics of the conference.

Prof. Krystian Heffner (Silesian Institute, Opole)

Due to Prof. Heffner following questions are very important to be considered nowadays and in the future: directions of European Union development, - aspects of EU dimension – new potential member countries (potential, opportunities, hopes, barriers and limits).

Prof. Jernej Zupančič (University of Ljubljana): Due to Prof. Jernej Zupančič the conference papers were based mainly on two topics. First of all origins, history, structure, role and problems of political, religious and ethnical minorities were considered. Next crucial theme was concentrated on border issues (cross border cooperation, political, social and economical barriers, potential of social and economical development of borderlands).

Prof. Jernej Zupančič suggest to consider following aspects during next conferences: theoretical and methodological aspects of political geography, methodology of research, looking for new methods of research, political decisions on different government levels (central, regional and local) connected with cross border cooperation. Role of local governments in this cooperation, prediction of European countries development in longer perspective, predictions of European Union dimension, European development and inner cooperation challenges, border issues. Prof also appeals for higher political and social activity of geographers connected with political geography.

Marie-France Gaunard-Anderson PhD. (University of Metz)

Marie-France Gaunard-Anderson was concentrated on summarization and mentioned few important topics connected with: limits in Europe (where Europe ends), multicultural character of different European regions and Europe as a whole continent, classical topics like integration in Europe, future of the European Union, post border and cross border cooperation, minorities (due to Marie-France Gaunard-Anderson in the future, more comprehensive attitude to this aspect should be taken), eastern and western perspective of European integration, aspects of European Union extension

Prof William R. Stanley (University of South Carolina)

Prof. Stanley claims that important issue, which should be considered in the future touches program of Ukrainian economy development.

Especially in the fields of agriculture and trade cooperation with Poland. Prof. Stanley proposal deals with creation stable plane of understanding between Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development together with Polish farmers associations and some Ukrainian farmers. As a result Ukrainian agriculture should be more competitive and go up on a higher level of development. Nowadays this sector of economy in Ukraine faces a deep crisis and recession.

Prof. Milan Bufon (Primorska University in Koper)

Prof. Milan Bufon when talking about next conference leading theme and its localization, considers German minority in Poland in the Opole voivodeship and other regions. Prof. Bufon claims that in the past, German minority in Poland have not been perceived for many years. Nowadays the situation is quite different. German minority has much more opportunities to show its autonomy, which may cause social and political problems.

Another interesting case is connected with transferring political activity from the government to local municipalities. Especially in the border regions where live some minority communities. Local activity of municipalities, NGOs and regular people seems to be the best way to create good command of multicultural and cross border cooperation. The question is how to use local communities potential for better development. Prof Milan says that Poland is some kind of a specific laboratory of social and economical changes and in a perfect way presents evolution from the Soviet Union country to democratic member of the European Union.

Prof. Gideon Biger (Tel Aviv University)

Prof. Gideon Biger mentions following aspects of political geography: international cooperation, role of national minorities in creating international dialogue and cooperation on both sides of the state frontiers.

Prof. Żelichowski Ryszard (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)

Prof. Ryszard Żelichowski proposition for the next conference keynote embraces problems with historical knowledge and education in Polish eastern border countries (mainly Lithuania and Ukraine).

Due to many Lithuanians and Ukrainians, there are no remarks about long Polish presence on the former eastern Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth lands. This is an alarming phenomenon. Next conferences topics should make a trial to answer the questions about appearance of such situation and how this situation can be changed.

Prof. Tadeusz Marszał emphasizes such aspects as international cooperation, relations between national minorities and administrative borders and role of local government in the integration processes.

At the end of the conference, prof. Sobczyński thanked everyone for the participation and support and finally made a proposition of localization of the next conference in 2014 in Spis, Orava and Podhale region were considered and join them with pre-congress meeting of the IGU Commission on Political Geography.

BRIT XII – 2012: FUKUOKA, JAPAN / BUSAN, KOREA - BORDERLAND VOICES: SHAPING A NEW WORLD ORDER, NOVEMBER 13 – 16, 2012 (FUKUOKA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS CENTER / DONGSEO UNIVERSITY)

(Anton Gosar)

On a Mid-November day I started my travels to the yet unknown part of Eastern Eurasia: Ljubljana – Paris – Tokyo. The evening plane transferred me to my final Japanese destination – Fukuoka. Taxi, hotel, sleep... My hotel room had a fantastic view of the Hakata Pier, the Kokusai Sport Center and the Fukuoka International Congress Center. Next morning I saw boats speeding in and out of the harbor, sumo wrestlers making way through the fan mile, and my colleagues rushing to the elegant hall along the South Japanese Sea. For the first time the Border Regions in Transition meeting took place in the Far East. Previously, experts on border issues have met in Europe (Germany-Poland, Finland – Russia, Estonia – Russia, Hungary – The Balkans, Poland – Ukraine, Switzerland - France) Americas (U.S. – Mexico, U.S. – Canada, Chile – Peru) and Asia (India – Pakistan, Israel – Palestine). In Fukuoka, Japan and Pusan, Korea 48 countries have been represented by close to 300 scholars. The all-time record was reached.

Both conference venues would not be hosting such a number of outstanding professionals if border issues in the Western Pacific would not have become centre stage news of the world media and, in particular, if Professor *Akihiro Iwashita* from the Slavic Research Centre of the Hokkaido University would not have made personal sacrifices and efforts to allocate border issues of the region into professional hands. Professor *Iwashita* is the project leader of global COE program “Reshaping Japan’s Border Studies” and vice-president of the Japan International Border Studies Network as well. *Iwashita’s* team and co-operating Korean organizers have placed presentation and discussion panels into Fukuoka’s Congress Center (2 days) and in the just recently opened Dongseo University skyscrapers, in the ultramodern Pusan Centum suburb (1 day). The chartered hydro-jetfoil “Beetle” transferred participants from Japan to Korea (210 km) - via a late morning and afternoon visit to the Japanese island group of Tsushima, famous for the 1905 Russo-Japanese naval battle. The two evenings in Fukuoka were filled-up with a cultural (musical *The Tale of Tsushima*) and sumo wrestling performance.

The conference opening discussion was introduced by *Tony Payan* (University of Texas, El Paso) who acted as moderator to a group of experts from the Queens University Belfast (*Liam O’Dowd*), the French Institute for Higher National Defense Studies, France (*Michel Foucher*), University of Eastern Finland (*James W. Scott*), Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Science (*Vladimir Kolossov*), University of Texas, El Paso (*Kathleen Staudt*) and Kyushu University (*Yuzu Yabuno*). The afternoon was devoted to parallel sessions on several to border issues related topics and to a special event for the Fukuoka citizens introducing the formation of the Fukuoka-Busan supra-regional economic zone. Sessions continued to be arranged on the second day of the conference in Fukuoka. On the first day of the conference 16. and I was involved in the session on Border Demarcation.

Parallel sessions continued to be organized at the Dongseo University venue in Pusan as the focus there shifted to large extent to the issues of the divided Korean peninsula: 13 sessions took place and 41 papers have been presented. The closing plenary was introduced by Henk van Houtum

(Radboud University, Nijmegen) and moderated by Emmanuel Brunet-Jally. Speakers Mushtaq Kaw (University of Kashmir, Srinagar), Christopher Len (Central Asia Caucasus Institute – Silk Road Studies, Washington), Decha Tangseefa (Thammasat University, Bangkok), Ilkka Liikanen (Karelian Institute, Univ. of Eastern Finland) and David Newman (Ben Gurion University, Be'er Sheva) discussed to a large extend border issues and related problems of the Asian continent. With no doubt the BRIT XII conference Borderland Voices: Shaping a New World Order was rich on information and discussion of many border related problems in Central and East Asia. In this region the European/American practiced theory and experience in resolving border issues can be used just to certain extend. The changing power relation in Asia and the Pacific ask for new solutions to be invented. But, with all certainty, this was the best organized conference I have attended recently. And, therefore my congratulations go to Prof. Iwashita and his team!

PÉCS, HUNGARY: “CULTURAL DIVERSITY - THE GEOPOLITICS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES” HUNGARIAN POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE VIII
(Norbert Pap)

The Department of Political Geography and Regional Development at the University of Pécs together with the Political Geography Sub-Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences have organized the international conference on “*Cultural diversity - the geopolitics of national minorities*” in Pécs, (15-16 November, 2012).

The aim of the Conference was to give an assessment of historical background of national issues related to minority status, an analysis of current situations and problems concerning national integration, fate of national minority groups and international/home affair conflicts. The conference focused three main topics: (1) Hungarian minority groups in the Carpathian Basin, (2) the so called Kosovo issue and (3) the problems of Spain related the situation evolved in Catalonia. The number of participants were 65, the number of presentations 40 in 6 sessions.

Upcoming Conferences and Related Events

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION (IGU) 2013 KYOTO REGIONAL CONFERENCE (KRC), AUGUST 4-9, 2013

(Yamazaki Takashi)

The IGU Commission on Political Geography (CPG) will organize paper sessions and a post-conference field trip. The deadline for abstract submission is **February, 4 2013**.

<http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/>

I. Main Conference Sessions at Kyoto: CPG will organize the following eight sessions. CPG session proposals can be found at:

[http://oguchaylab.csis.u-](http://oguchaylab.csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/IGU2013/session_proposals.html#c12)

[tokyo.ac.jp/IGU2013/session_proposals.html#c12](http://oguchaylab.csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/IGU2013/session_proposals.html#c12)

[.33](http://oguchaylab.csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/IGU2013/session_proposals.html#c12)

1. Re-theorizing territory, sovereignty, and space
2. New frontiers in border studies
3. Migrations and the spatial reconceptualisation of citizenship
4. Localizing social movement in a globalizing world
5. Militarization and de-militarization from a comparative perspective (connected to the themes of the post-conference field trip to Okinawa shown below)
6. Critical perspectives on political geography
7. Contemporary political geography and geopolitics in Asia
8. Contemporary political geography implications for inner seas cooperation and regional change [Joint session with the Commission on Mediterranean Basin]

II. Post-Conference Field Trip to Okinawa
After the main Conference, the field trip to Okinawa will be organized on August 10-12. The trip will focus on the militarization and demilitarization of the semi-tropical island as a site for US military presence in the western Pacific (see:

<http://www.pref.okinawa.jp/site/chijiko/kichitai/25185.html>).

The itinerary is as follows:

Day 1 (August 10): The Militarization of the Okinawa Island: Move from Kyoto to the Itami Airport by airport limousine bus (arranged by participants themselves). Arrive at the Naha Airport, Okinawa. Visit to the USMC Futenma Air Station, the USAF Kadena Air Base, and the

military base town of Koza with an optional night tour in the town (Please note that the trip will leave Naha at 2pm, meaning that participants need to arrive in Naha beforehand by taking a domestic flight from Itami or Kansai. There are usually two flights to Naha from Itami in the morning: one is run by ANA which is part of Star Alliance; the other is by JAL which is part of One World. You can include one of these flights in your international trip).

Day 2 (August 11): The De-militarisation of the Island: Visit to "American Village" (Americanized resort and shopping complex), Yomitan Village (plans for de-militarization), Kin Town (another military base town), and Henoko (oppositional movement against militarization). Dinner at American Village.

Day 3 (August 12): Move back to Naha (for sightseeing and/or returning flight). We will arrive at the Naha Airport around 8:30am so that participants can take a connecting flight to Kansai or Narita. The maximum number of participants will be 20. The estimated total cost for the trip is approximately 35,000 yen without airfare, which can be paid by credit card. Flights to/from Okinawa (Naha) need to be arranged by participants themselves as part of their international round trip to Japan. For further information: send an email to Takashi Yamazaki: yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp.

AAG – ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS - 2013 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP PRECONFERENCE, UCLA, LOS ANGELES, CA, APRIL 08 2013 The PGSG and the Department of Geography at UCLA are very pleased to announce that the 2013 PGSG Preconference will be held at UCLA in Westwood, Los Angeles on Monday April 8 2013. The paper sessions will take place during the day. The PGSG will host a group dinner for preconference participants during the evening. The preconference will be held at the UCLA Faculty Center, located at 480 Charles E. Young Drive East in Westwood. Deadlines and registration: Please submit a paper title and a 200 word abstract, along with author contact details (name, institutional address, email address), to Mat Coleman and Reece Jones at aag.pgsg@gmail.com no later than February 1 2013. As with AAG past preconferences, there will be a nominal \$20 registration fee for faculty only. For more information:

<http://www.politicalgeography.org/aagannounce.html>

CONFERENCE OF THE EU-FP7 PROJECT EUBORDERSCAPES (2012-2016) BERGAMO, ITALY, 4-5 JULY 2013
(Chiara Brambilla)

The University of Bergamo will host the first general Conference of the EU-FP7 project EUBORDERSCAPES (2012-2016) that will be held on July 4-5, 2013. The Conference is intended to present on-going research activities within this large-scale international project to the wider public and to make a constructive contribution to the debate within border studies opening up a dialogue with scholars external to the project who are contributing to pushing conceptual, methodological and empirical research on borders and border crossings forward. An introductory keynote session will be held with Elena dell'Agnese (University of Milano-Bicocca, IGU President) and another guest speaker TBA. A Summer School will be organized in conjunction with the Conference. Call for papers and Conference announcement will be available on the project website

<http://www.euborderscapes.eu>
and circulated by February 2013

THE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY SUB-COMMITTEE OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY - COMMITTEE OF HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

(Norbert Pap)

1. V. The Rise and Fall of Multiethnic States Conferences - The Ottoman Empire and the Balkans (1 March 2013, Szeged)
2. VI. Regional History Research Conferences - Partium, (29 November 2013, Szeged)

IV EUGEO CONFERENCE

(Filippo Celata)

IV Congress of the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe

(EUGEO).

"Europe, what's next? Changing geographies and geographies of change"

www.eugeo2013.com.

Rome, 5-7 September 2013.

The call for session and panel proposals is open until January 27th:

<http://www.eugeo2013.com/call>

**V ADRIATIC FORUM,
ROME, SEPTEMBER 2013
GLOBAL TRENDS IN POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
ROME, SEPTEMBER 2013**
(Paola Pagnini)

The Faculty of Political Sciences of the University Niccolò Cusano, Rome, together with the Commission on Political Geography of the International Geographical Union is organising the International Conference "Geopolitics towards future". The Conference will be held starting September 2nd until September 4th 2013 in Rome, in the Niccolò Cusano University Campus, via don Carlo Gnocchi 3.

The Conference will be structured into 3 consequent sessions:

September 2nd: Seminar "Geopolitics towards future" for doctoral students of the Central European Universities Consortium and will be open to all doctoral and PHD students interested;

September 3rd: The traditional meeting of human geographers of the Adriatic region "Adriatic Forum 2013" on "Global integration and networks";

September 4th: The symposium on "Global Trends in Political Geography for the 21st century". The First detailed Circular will be sent in a short delay.

MEETING OF IGU COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY IN EUGENE, OREGON, ON THE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
(Alexander Murphy)

During the third week of June, 2014, the Department of Geography at the University of Oregon will host a meeting of the IGU Commission on Political Geography in Eugene, Oregon. The theme of the conference will be **Political Geography and the Environment**. The meeting will consist of two days of sessions, followed by an optional day-long field trip to the Oregon coast.

One of the clearest obstacles to the effort to confront environmental problems is the

fragmentation of the planet into political spaces, few of which are meaningful ecological units. The issue is not just that ecological and political boundaries do not coincide; the very roles that territorial states play in the international state system and the world economy frequently work against collective action in the interests of the environment. Building on a tradition of examining the relationship between spaces of governance and environmental geographies, this conference will explore the role political geographic arrangements and understandings play in the effort to address the myriad environmental challenges of our time. Contributions are welcome addressing such issues as:

- 1) Transnational regulation regimes and the special issues presented by environments that do not lie within the territories of individual states
- 2) The political geographic dimensions of environmental security
- 3) The geopolitical implications of environmental change
- 4) The geographical circumstances affecting the emergence and success of environmental movements
- 5) The problems and prospects of collective resource management in different political contexts
- 6) The use of environmental strategies in the pursuit of political-territorial objectives
- 7) The implications of environmental change for theorizations of the relationship between space and politics

For more information about the conference, please contact conference organizer Alec Murphy (abmurphy@uoregon.edu).

THE ASSOCIATION FOR BORDERLANDS STUDIES 1ST WORLD CONFERENCE POST-COLD WAR BORDERS: GLOBAL TRENDS AND REGIONAL RESPONSES, 9-13 JUNE 2014, JOENSUU, FINLAND – ST. PETERSBURG RUSSIA
(Jussi Laine)

The ABS has promoted the study of borders and borderlands for more than 35 years. While its initial geographical focus was largely on North American borders, the association has in recent years expanded its European, Asian, African and South American networks and can now be said to be a truly international organization.

This ABS world conference, now in the planning stages, will be the first truly globally oriented event sponsored by the Association. It will be organized in Finland and Russia and will involve a fascinating field trip to the historical borderland of Karelia. The conference will be organized by the VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies at the University of Eastern Finland in cooperation with the Centre for Independent Social Research (St. Petersburg) and the European University (St. Petersburg) (Program Chairs: Ilkka Liikanen and James W. Scott, Head of organizational committee: Jussi Laine).

The issue of borders, their functions and changing significance and symbolism presently looms larger than at any time since the end of the Cold War. The commonplace of global de-bordering, supported by optimistic notions of globalization and a new post-Cold War world order, has arguably succumbed to the reality of increasing complexity and instability in the world system. We can recognize global megatrends that are changing the nature of borders while, at the same time, there are obviously different regional responses to these trends.

Updates regarding this conference will be made available through the conference project website: www.uef.fi/abs2014world

For further inquiries, please contact the conference secretariat at: abs2014.secretariat@uef.fi

14TH INTERNATIONAL 'LODZ' POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE IN AUGUST 14-16. 2014

The 14th International 'Lodz' Political Geography Conference will be organised as a Workshop of International Geographical Union Commission of Political Geography on Polish-Slovakian borderland preceding the IGU Regional Conference in Cracow.

The Newsletter #16 has been edited by Elena dell'Agnese, Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (elena.dellaagnese@unimib.it), with assistance of Virginie Mamadouh and Anna Casaglia

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