

IGU COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

Newsletter

The Commission on Political Geography (CPG) of IGU-UGI aims at encouraging geographical research on these various dimensions of the connections between power, politics, and spaces, and at stimulating the exchange of findings and insights among political geographers from different countries. It is also focused on the analysis of the connections between political geographies (that is all the discursive praxis pertaining with the representation of the world in its political organization) and the making of the world itself.

Chair's Column

Since the last edition of Commission's newsletter in February 2016, the foundations of the contemporary political-geographic order have been shaken by the British vote to leave the European Union and by the election of a new wave of populist leaders in different parts of the world—most obviously Donald Trump in the United States. At the same time, territorial conflicts continue to rage in Southwest Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, northern Africa, and eastern Ukraine (to name but a few), and tensions are growing in the South China Sea, the Korean peninsula, the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere. At smaller geographic scales, clashes among gangs are still wracking countries such as El Salvador and Honduras, ethno-national conflicts continue to play out in settings as diverse as eastern Myanmar and southeastern Turkey, and both Europe and the United States are facing politically explosive struggles over migration, even as migrants in these and other places confront growing threats of detention and deportation.

There are, of course, bright spots—an agreement in Colombia that may bring down the curtain on the long, troubled battle between the central government and the FARC, an accord with Iran that has reduced the prospects of conflict over that country's nuclear program, and a steady decline in recent years of the percentage of the global population living in extreme poverty. Taken as a whole, however, it is hard to escape the conclusion that we live in profoundly unsettling times—sufficiently unsettling that it can be a challenge not to succumb to feelings of deep disillusionment, if not outright depression. Yet it is vital that the community of political geographers not let discouragement turn into retreat, for many of the issues roiling the contemporary world are rooted in political geographic conditions, ideas, and understandings that cry out for analysis and assessment.

It is no exaggeration to say that geopolitical circumstances, territorial ambitions, and political-geographic arrangements are at the heart of every one of the issues enumerated at the beginning of this commentary. Moreover, these are just a subset of the issues with important political-geographic underpinnings that are shaping the world of the early twenty-first century. Any serious effort to grapple with the challenges presented by human-induced climate change, destabilizing socio-economic inequalities, entrenched racism, gender-based discrimination, human rights violations, uneven development, and resource depletion must include some consideration of the political-geographic context within which they are embedded.

It follows that thoughtful, informative, creative, and engaged work in political geography is not just useful; it is of vital importance. What are the lessons from the period leading up to World War I for the contemporary political-geographic moment? How are particular geopolitical representations—whether grounded in actual or imagined circumstances—gaining ground, and to what effect? Under what circumstances have protectionist policies fostered positive or negative socio-economic changes? How are political elites beating back



CPG:

www.igu-cpg.unimib.it/

Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/456054597763023/?fref=ts



deterritorialization and extending their spatial reach? What new regimes of resource exploitation and control are emerging in the face of changing economic and political circumstances? What are the effects of shifting jurisdictional arrangements, governance priorities, and political discourse on different communities? What types of spatial strategies are most likely to serve as effective counterpoints to reactionary populist agendas? The obvious significance of questions such as these underscores the point that this is not a time for complacency. To the contrary, it is a time to look for creative ways to build on the work we have done in the past and push ourselves to look for new ways to promote greater understanding of the changes unfolding around us.

I have been inspired by work done under the auspices of the CPG in the past. It has brought together people from different backgrounds, places, and cultures, and it has encouraged productive collaborations. Indeed, a 1986 meeting in San Sebastian Spain of the CPG's predecessor organization, the Commission on the World Political Map, helped to launch my career. As geographers and others debate and seek to mobilize in the face of the daunting challenges that lie before us, the importance of engaging broadly, constructively, and collaboratively with the issues of the day could not be greater.

In that spirit, I encourage those involved with the CPG to embrace the opportunity to share ideas in La Paz, Quebec, and some of the other places hosting meetings that are outlined in the pages that follow. Please also let me and my extraordinary co-chair, Virginie Mamadouh, know if you have ideas that can help move the commission forward. Urge your friends and colleagues working on political geographic topics to become involved, and let's collectively see what we can do to advance an intellectual project that has such obvious import for the chaotic times in which we live.

Alexander ("Alec") Murphy
CPG Co-Chair

CPG Travel Grant

For the **IGU Thematic Conference in La Paz, Bolivia**, CPG will offer limited funding (two grants of \$500) to assist two (preferably) early career geographers from low-income countries to attend CPG sessions.

Applicants should submit the accepted abstract, a 2-page summary, a CV, and a letter of recommendation to both the CPG Co-Chairs, Virginie Mamadouh (V.D.Mamadough@uva.nl) and Alexander Murphy (abmurphy@uoregon.edu) via email by **15 March 2017**. A decision will be communicated by **19 March**. Grants to the awardees will be in the form of cash payments in USD after presentations are made at the Congress venue.

Reports

IGU Commission on Political Geography Pre-Conference: "International Forum on Frontiers of Political Geography"

Yungang Liu

IGU Commission on Political Geography Pre-Conference "International Forum on Frontiers of Political Geography" was successfully held at Sun Yat-sen University from 17th to 21st August 2016. The conference was co-sponsored by the International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography, the Association of Borderlands Studies, and the Geographical Society of China and was

co-hosted by School of Geography and Planning of Sun Yat-Sen University (SYSU) and Young Geographer Committee of the Geographical Society of China. The conference was prepared and organized by Yungang Liu (SYSU) and Takashi Yamazaki (Osaka City University, Co-Chair of CPG). Participants of forty-nine universities and research institutions were from thirteen countries and regions, including the UK, the US, Canada, Russia, Australia, Netherlands, Finland, Japan, Singapore, Brazil, Hong Kong and Taiwan. More than one hundred and thirty scholars signed up, seventy-eight of whom contributed to the organized sessions. It is the first international academic conference on political geography held in Mainland China and an international geography conference where both overseas and domestic scholars gathered.

The theme of this conference was "Frontiers of Political Geography: Dialogues and Collaborations between East and West". This conference aimed at providing a platform for in-depth constructive dialogues among scholars from various countries, and promoting mutual understanding and collaborations between Chinese and non-Chinese political geographers. The main purpose of this conference was to promote intense discussions among the participants on significant political geography topics, future directions, and international collaborations. The conference set five keynote and general sessions and one poster presentation session, amounting to forty oral and eight poster presentations. There were also half-day pre-conference field trip to Guangzhou Old Town and one-day post-conference field-trip to the Shenzhen/Hong Kong border region.



Field trip to Guangzhou Old Town



Field trip to the Shenzhen/Hong Kong border region

The opening ceremony was held in the afternoon of August 18th. Yungang Liu, vice executive secretary of the Geographical Society of China and chairman of Young Geographer Committee of the Geographical Society of China, from School of Geography and Planning of Sun Yat-Sen University gave an opening speech. Liu introduced the background and key issues of the forum and expressed his appreciation to all the participants. These participants include James Sidaway (National University of Singapore), Tim Oakes (University of Colorado), Joe Painter (Durham University), Virginie Mamadouh (University of Amsterdam), Jussi Laine (University of Eastern Finland), Victor Konrad (Carleton University), Alexander Murphy (University of Oregon), Akihiko Takagi (Kyushu University), Adriana Dorfman (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul), Martin van der Velde (Radboud University Nijmegen), Dadao Lu (a former member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences), George Lin (Hong Kong University), Hong Zhu (South China Normal University), Hong'ou Zhang (Guangzhou Institute of Geography), Debin Du (East China Normal University), Yuejing Ge (Beijing Normal University), Guicai Li (Peking University), Shangyi Zhou (Beijing Normal University), Xianjin Huang (Nanjing University), Huasong Luo (Yunnan Normal University), Xing Xiao (Guangzhou University), Jianlan Ren (Shandong Normal University), Professor Jiadong Yuan (Northeast Normal University).



Dadao Lu delivers a keynote lecture



A discussion among scholars from various countries

Session 1: “New Political Geography Bridging East and West”

Alexander Murphy, and Yungang Liu delivered three keynote lectures titled "Mapping the World: A Global Geopolitical Map Perspective", "Between East and West: Research Directions in Political Geography" and "A Genealogy of Political Geography Studies and Scholars in Contemporary China" respectively. These speeches triggered intensive debates among the delegates. Then, Takashi Yamazaki and Hong Zhu chaired the round-table discussion in which active exchanges of opinions emerged between eastern and western scholars afterwards.

Session 2: “Towards Multi-Scalar Political Geographies” was held in the morning of August 19th.

James Sidaway, Tim Oakes, Joe Painter, Takashi Yamazaki and Virginie Mamadouh delivered keynote lectures on “Urban Geopolitics”, “China's Urban Frontiers”, “The Micro-Politics of Urban Social Innovation”, “From Inter-State to Multi-Scalar Political Geographies”, and “East-West Dialogues in the Early Days of Political Geography” respectively.

Three parallel sessions were held simultaneously in the afternoon of August 19th in SYSU Hotel & Conference Center. The three sessions were organized according to the topics on "New frontiers in Political Geography/Geopolitics", "New Dynamism of Borders in Asia and Beyond" and "Governance over Urban Space and Territory".

Takashi Yamazaki hosted the closing ceremony. Nine young scholars, from University of São Paulo, Yunnan Normal University, Laval University and other institutions, were given "Excellent Paper Awards" or "Excellent Oral Presentation Awards" in the ceremony. Yungang Liu, delivered a closing speech on behalf of the forum sponsors. He pointed out that, the two-day conference not only exchanged ideas and knowledge internationally, but also built up a new connection between Chinese and non-Chinese political geographers. The papers presented in the conference would be collected for further publications. At the end, Yungang Liu proposed an agenda for further events in the future for the development and cooperation of international political geographies.



Oral presentation at one of the parallel sessions



The closing ceremony

The 33rd IGC in Beijing, August 21-25, 2016

Takashi Yamazaki



Fedor and Takashi (August 24)



August 25

The 33rd International Geographical Congress (IGC) was held in Beijing, China from August 21st to 25th, 2016. The theme of the Congress is “Shaping Our Harmonious Worlds,” which highlighted today’s common pursuit for harmony between humankind and nature, between environment and society, and for harmonious approaches to the world’s hazards and conflicts.

During the Congress 262 sessions were organized, consisting of 156 thematic sessions proposed by 41 IGU Commissions. The Congress reportedly attracted 4299 participants from 101 countries and regions worldwide (2349 were from mainland China). 2600 oral presentations and 1200 poster presentations were made in the China National Convention Center located in the Olympic Green or the site for the 2012 Beijing Olympics.

The CPG received 13 session proposals and organized the following 9 sessions with 80 registered papers. One of the sessions was co-organized with the IGU Gender and Geography Commission. This size of sessions was the fourth largest among IGU Commissions following the Commissions of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change, Geographical Education, and Urban Challenges in a Complex World. Although there were cancelled papers in most of the sessions, many sessions were well attended and had active discussions among participants.

At the session on “The Transformation of Political Space and Prospects for New Governance in the Contemporary Phase of Globalization,” CPG Travel Grant Award (\$500) was given to Dr. Fedor Popov (Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation). The title of his paper is “From Ungoverned Territory to De Facto State: a Quick Guide.”

CPG business meeting was held during the Congress. One of the co-chairs, Takashi Yamazaki, officially stepped down from the position after 2-year term of co-chair and 12-year service for the CPG Steering Committee. As his replacement, Alexander Murphy (University of Oregon, USA) was elected as a new co-chair with Virginie Mamadouh.

At the end of the Congress, CPG co-chairs (Virginie Mamadouh and Takashi Yamazaki) gave a plenary lecture titled “From inter-state to multiscalar Political Geographies” as an address in reply to the 2015 IGU Commission Excellence Award given to the CPG.

Past Events

IGU Joint Symposium of Commissions on Island, Political Geography, and Geomorphology & Society, Taipei, June 26-29, 2016

Takashi Yamazaki

Prior to the 33rd IGC in Beijing, IGU Joint Commission Symposium was held at National Taiwan University Global Change Research Center in Taipei, Taiwan. This was a new endeavor jointly organized by three IGU Commissions on Island, Political Geography, and Geomorphology & Society in order to discuss the conference theme “Earth, Society, Islands, and the Political in the Changing World.”



Stanly Brunn (June 26)



Elena's presentation (June 26)

On June 26th, four keynote speakers including Mike Meadows (IGU Secretary) and Stanly Brunn (on behalf of the CPG) addressed main topics and 14 papers were presented in three sessions on “Islands and Complexity,” “Nature and Human Engagement,” and “Hazards, Knowledge and Power.” From June 27th to 29th, a field trip to Matsu Islets was organized. Matsu Islets are located close to mainland China and were heavily militarized during the Cold War. The Islets are currently designated as a national geo-park and attract many tourists. The participants visited three islands and observed how formerly fortified islands have been reconstructed as new tourist attractions with unique natural and cultural assets. During the trip, three lectures were given by participant geographers to local people, focusing on how geographical and geomorphological resources in the Islets can be promoted for local economy.



Field trip to Matsu (June 27)



Field trip to Matsu (June 29)

Although these IGU Commissions have been active in their own sub-disciplines, they had never acted jointly. This joint symposium definitely proves that a joint Commission endeavor such as this will be able to pave the way for new geographical research that can overcome sub-disciplinary boundaries and broaden our (limited) scope for the complex relationship between physical and human geographical phenomena.

“Crisis and change. Goeconomical and geopolitical approaches”, Reims, 27 and 28 May 2016

S. Rosière and F. Bost, 9 June 2016

The international conference held in the Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne on the 26th and 27th of May, with the support of the commissions "Industry and employment" and "Political Geography" of the French national Committee of geography (CNFG) and the Commission on Political geography of the IGU/UGI brought together thirty-two scholars. The majority of them from French Institutions but also from Belgium, Czech Rep., Canada, Morocco and Tunisia (sketching the francophone hemisphere). Ironically the strikes and social movement in France gave an illustration of a crisis situation and a concrete dimension to the debates. Nevertheless the overwhelming of the guests reached the campus of Rheims University and the two days of conference were fruitful and successful.

The central idea of the conference was to examine the economic and the geopolitical dimensions of contemporary crises and their interactions. In the opening session, the organizers underlined how rare global analyzes are, in contemporary geography the anthropological dimension tends to erase the macro analysis. S. Rosière (Reims) stressed the come-back of borders (and tensions for their positions which was not expected in the 1990's geographical doxa), F. Bost (Reims) pointed out that the "geoeconomical age" was not the next step after a "geopolitical age", but a parallel dimension making our analysis more difficult. G. Dory (La Rochelle University) stress out the main contemporary geopolitical mutation: the growing weight of economic parameters into geopolitical dynamics.

The roughly thirty interventions dispatched in parallel sessions were divided between economical approaches, a little bit more numerous, and geopolitical approaches. It is of course impossible to sum up all of them. Let's say that M. Bailoni (Univ. de Lorraine) convincingly underlined the effect of the world financial crisis on the political fragmentation of UK (Scotland, Brexit); N. Mazzucchi (IRSEM, Paris) pointed out the geopolitical/economical interactions in the case of raw material and energy resources; A. Degans (Lille) stress out the notion of "economical war" in the context of de-industrialisation; A. Gack (Univ. de Lorraine) showed the effect of de-industrialisation of North France on popular vote and social des-integration. Central Asia was focused by I. Damiani, and K. Usmanova were the influences of China and Russia were questioned, other regions were explored: Ethiopia with Gascon (Paris 8), Transnistria with Merle (Reims), Eastern Africa (D'Alessandro, senior fellow in Ottawa University), etc.

In his concluding speech C. Vandermotten (ULB, Belgium) presented an ambitious comparison between the 1920-30's crisis and the post 1973 crisis. He stressed some elements of comparison but some major differences too. According to our Belgian colleague the up-to date crisis is a major economical and geopolitical mutation aggravated by a harsh ecological situation. Disturbing element: the low economic growth potential. Increasing social insecurity appears as an illusory and dangerous "new frontier" for the global capitalist system. The French strikers expressed perfectly this growing potential of social tensions and economical wars in a model *à bout de souffle*.

Future IGU Events

2017 Hyderabad Thematic Conference March 17 -19, 2017

IGU Conference on “Urbanization, Health & Well Being and Sustainable Development Goals” from March 17th -19th, 2017 at Osmania University, Hyderabad, India

The New Millennium belongs to the urban world. In today’s increasingly global and interconnected world, over half of the world’s population (54 percent) now lives in urban areas. The coming decades will bring further profound changes to the size and spatial distribution of the global population such that the world’s population in 2050 is projected to be 66 percent urban. The global urban population is projected to grow by 2.5 billion urban dwellers between 2014 and 2050, with nearly 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa. Trends in urbanization are integrally linked to sustainable development. With good planning and governance, the increasing concentration of people in urban settlements can facilitate economic and social development, while also offering opportunities to mitigate the adverse impact of consumption and production on the environment. However, rapid and unplanned urban growth threatens sustainable development when the necessary infrastructure is not developed or when policies are not implemented to protect the environment and ensure that the benefits of city life are equitably shared. Addressing urban inequalities is key to achieving sustainable development. Slum dwellers face greater exposure to environmental hazards, such as pollution, and suffer increased health risks as a result. The urban poor in developed countries also face marked disparities in health and well-being. Furthermore, much of the increase in the numbers of urban poor is taking place in locations that are highly vulnerable to natural disasters and are expected to experience the greatest impact of climate change, such as low-elevation coastal zones and arid regions known as dry lands. The future growth of cities and the concomitant appropriation of land and natural resources will determine success towards an environmentally sustainable future.

The seminar goal is to disseminate knowledge and share expertise and experiences in urban and sustainable development and its issues and challenges. It also aims to build linkage between the regional and international professionals. Contributions covering urban and sustainable development are encouraged. The IGU Seminar aims to contribute towards various global initiatives like ICSU Initiatives on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment: a Systems Analysis Approach, UN Disaster Risk Reduction, Making City Resilient, HABITAT III and Future Earth Initiatives.

<http://www.iguhyderabad2017.com/about-us.html>

2017 IGU-UGI Thematic Conference 23-25 April 2017, La Paz – Bolivia **GEOGRAPHIES FOR PEACE / GEOGRAFÍAS PARA LA PAZ**

Geography has often been accused of being applied to waging war. Yet, it also offers a vast array of contributions to the construction of peace. The 2017 IGU-UGI thematic conference “GEOGRAPHIES FOR PEACE/ GEOGRAFÍAS PARA LA PAZ” will highlight the various contributions of geography to the construction of peace.



In 2017 the International Geographical Union (IGU-UGI) will organize two Thematic Conferences, instead of a large Regional: one about “Energy, Geography & Balanced Development” in Baku (Azerbaijan), and one about “Geographies for Peace” in La Paz (Bolivia). The Thematic Conference in La Paz will be held on 23, 24 and 25 April 2017, in combination with another major international scientific event, “EGAL, XVI ENCUESTRO DE GEÓGRAFOS DE AMÉRICA LATINA” (EGAL The 16th Meeting of Latin American Geographers), which will take place from 26 to 29 April in the same city.

The thematic conference “GEOGRAPHIES FOR PEACE/ GEOGRAFÍAS PARA LA PAZ” will cover all possible dimensions, from the historical perspective, to forecasting, through the role of education or tourism, and the political analysis of war and peace. Therefore, several IGU Commissions may be involved in the organisation of the different sessions. Peace is here widely defined. Peace is always shaped by the spaces in which it is made, as it too shapes those spaces. Peace means different things to different groups in different times, spaces, places, and scales. Peace can be created at the scale of the individual, the family, the community, the nation, and/or at other scales, but these different scales are often intertwined. Peace is a situated and spatial process – and as such is necessarily plural. Therefore, geographers are particularly well placed to research it, and to draw lines that connect the pieces of differently situated peaces.

The working languages of the Conference are English and Spanish.

<http://geographiesforpeace.org/>

IGU Thematic Conference: Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health and Environment, Local and Regional Development 11-15 September 2017, Bucharest, Tulcea (Rumania)

Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest
Connecting land use and biodiversity is essential to understand the relationships between ecosystems and socio-economic systems, ecosystem services, and the potential risks and benefits to regional specialization and human welfare. Such topic calls for investigations on how human activities and global environmental changes affect terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, human well-being and public health, what are the feedback and the potential local and regional futures. In this context, the rationale of the conference is to bring together scientists and stakeholders from various connecting fields to address different effects of ecosystems changes, to set-up mitigation and adaptation strategies and contribute with scientific information to local/regional land use, planning and environmental policies.
Submission of Abstract: February 28th, 2017
Notification of Abstracts Acceptance: April 1st, 2017
Registration: April 1st – June 1st, 2017
Conference Dates: September 11 – 15, 2017

<http://www.gef.bg.ac.rs/igu-thematic-conference-land-usecover-changes-biodiversity-health-and-environment-local-and-regional-development/>

International Geographical Union Regional Conference August 6 to 10, 2018

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Geographers and the Université Laval, North America's oldest French-language university, we are pleased to invite you to Quebec City to participate in the 2018 International Geographical Union Regional Conference to be held in Canada from August 6 to 10, 2018. The conference theme, *Appreciating Difference*, or *Apprécier la différence*, is a Quebec expression that invites participants to consider the world as a blank canvas that we must first decide how to depict before putting down images and words. Surely, the choice of those images and words is a matter of appreciation. To appreciate is not only a question of what we find significant and of value, it is also an awareness of differences and the ability to recognize them as meaningful to a more inclusive interpretation of the diverse world in which we live. Conference topics, as well as IGU commissions and CAG study groups, will reflect on this thought-provoking theme. In addition, a wide variety of field excursions combining human and physical geography will provide participants with the opportunity to *apprécier la différence* that makes Quebec, a UNESCO World Heritage City, a place of exceptional geographic interest.

<http://igu2018.ulaval.ca>

Other Future Events

30th annual Preconference of the AAG Political Geography Specialty Group – Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. USA, 4 April 2017

Harvard's Center for Geographic Analysis, the Institute for Quantitative Social Science, and the Department of Government.

Natalie Koch, PGSG President <nkoch@maxwell.syr.edu>

Kenneth Madsen, PGSG Secretary/Treasurer <madsen.34@osu.edu>

For additional details and inquiries: <http://www.politicalgeography.org/pre-conference/>

2017 Annual Conference of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) – Boston (USA) 5-9 April 2017

<http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>

ABS 2017 Annual Conference, San Francisco (USA) April 12-15, 2017

Held in conjunction with the Western Social Science Association's annual conference ABS 59th WSSA Annual Conference April 12-15, 2017, San Francisco, California, USA

<http://www.wssaweb.com/>

Borders in Globalization summer institute, Marseille, France, 15-19 May 2017

Summer Institute - Mediterranean Migration and Borders: Beyond the Security Nexus

<http://www.biglobalization.org/content/summer-institute-mediterranean-migration-and-borders-beyond-security-nexus>

Borders in Globalization summer institute, May 23-25th 2017, Balsillie School, Canada

Globalization allows the supply and demand for skills to converge across borders. The need for particular skills and professions has shaped international migration flows through rules, bordering practices, and policies on foreign credential recognition. The Borders in Globalization Summer Institute in collaboration with the International Migration Research Centre is open to graduate students who are exploring skilled migration flows and barriers, and would like to receive mentorship from academics, government representatives, and other policy professionals. Student participants will have an opportunity to present their papers and participate in feedback-and-discussion panel sessions." Further details, at:

www.balsillieschool.ca/event/skilled-migration-flows-and-borders-a-globalized-world

2017 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers York University, Toronto, Canada, May 29- June 2, 2017

The conference theme is 'Toward a Just and Sustainable World'

<http://cag-acg2017.ca/>

2017 European Conference on Politics and Gender, ECPR University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland 8-10 June, 2017

<http://www.ecpg.eu/2017-conference.html>

XXXII Congresso Geografico Italiano Roma, (Italia) 7-10 Giugno 2017

<http://www.congressogeografico.it/>

<http://www.associazionegeografitaliani.it/>

Call for Papers in English <http://www.congressogeografico.it/cfp-eng/>
(deadline 15 February 2017)

2017 Political Geography Research Group workshop of the RGS-IBG. Royal Holloway, London 12-13 June 2017

On the theme of 'Fieldwork in Political Geography.'

<https://rhulgeopolitics.wordpress.com/2017/02/23/call-for-papers-fieldwork-in-political-geography/>

(Deadline for registration 3 May 2017)

International Studies Association International Conference 2017: The Pacific Century (Hong Kong) 15 June, 2017 - 18 June, 2017

Hong Kong University Hong Kong, Hong Kong S.A.R., China
<http://www.isanet.org/Conferences/ISA-Hong-Kong-2017>

Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM) – Stockholm (Sweden) June 18th – 21st 2017

<http://www.humangeo.su.se/english/ngm-2017>

EUrégio: Regions and Regionalism in the EU Villeneuve d'Ascq, France, 26-28 June 2017 (French and English)

Regions and regional governance in Europe. The regions in the EU and the EU in the regions. Cfp deadline 31 March 2017
<http://euregio.univ-lille1.fr/en/news/call-papers-lille-jean-monnet-conference>
<http://euregio.univ-lille1.fr>

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 31 August - 1 September 2017

Royal Geographical Society, London.
<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm>

EUGEO September 4-6 2017

EUGEO, the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe, organises every two years a major international scientific congress, bringing together geographers from all over the world. EUGEO September 4-6 2017 will take place in Brussels in the prestigious Palace of the Academies, at short distance from the Grand Place. Call for Papers deadline: 31 March 2017

Geography for Europe is the theme of this congress to be held in the European Capital. The theme covers the many aspects of the geography of Europe as well as the contribution of geography to the development of Europe, and the problems the continent has to face.

The format of the congress will be based on thematic sessions where topical issues relevant for Europe and Geography will be presented and discussed.

Presentations will be in English or French. We ask participants who communicate in French to accompany their oral paper with a PowerPoint presentation in English.

More information on <http://eugeo2017.sciencesconf.org>

1st International Conference of Anarchist Geographies and Geographers (ICAGG) – Reggio Emilia (Italy) 21-23 September 2017

Geography, social change and antiauthoritarian practices. Reggio Emilia (Italy) – Centro Studi Cucine del Popolo, via Beethoven 78/e, 21-23 September 2017

In light of the flourishing of anarchist geographies, we propose to organize an independent international conference, to be repeated in different countries every 2 or 3 years, to create a space for scholars and militants interested in these topics to enjoy a deep and fruitful exchange, and present an opportunity for those interested in anarchist geographies and rooted in broader social movements internationally to exchange ideas and make meaningful connections'. The choice of doing the first conference in an Italian small town like Reggio Emilia, where an established local anarchist movement already promoted events and publications on anarchist geographers is instrumental to the capital tasks of continuing a discussion among scholars and militants from different linguistic and cultural areas, and ensuring discussions involve grassroots movements and militant situations outside the academy. This conference is not only for "card-carrying" anarchists. We welcome contributions dealing critically with anarchist geographies, histories, concepts, and interventions from grassroots movements, militants, and academics.

To attend the conference, please send an abstract of maximum 250 words at the address scientific_committee@icagg.org by February 1st 2017. The preferred conference's language is English: if you feel especially uncomfortable with presenting in this language, please write to the organisers in order to arrange some specific solution. Further information will be provided by e-mail and through the site www.icagg.org

For information on travel, accommodation and any other practical query (need for childcare, dietary requirements etc.), please write to icagg2017@icagg.org

Deutscher Kongress für Geographie 2017, Tübingen (Germany) 30 September-5 October 2017

Eine Welt in Bewegung • Erforschen - Verstehen - Gestalten 30.9. – 5.10.2017 / Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen
<http://www.dkg2017-tuebingen.de/>

Festival international de géographie (FIG) St Dié des Vosges (France) 29 septembre - 1er octobre 2017

Le thème de 2017 est "Territoires humains, mondes animaux" et le pays invité "l'Afrique du Sud"
<http://www.fig.saint-die-des-vosges.fr/>
<https://www.facebook.com/festival.international.geographie>

Landscape dimensions of Sustainable Development: Science – Planning – Governance International Conference 4-6 October 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia

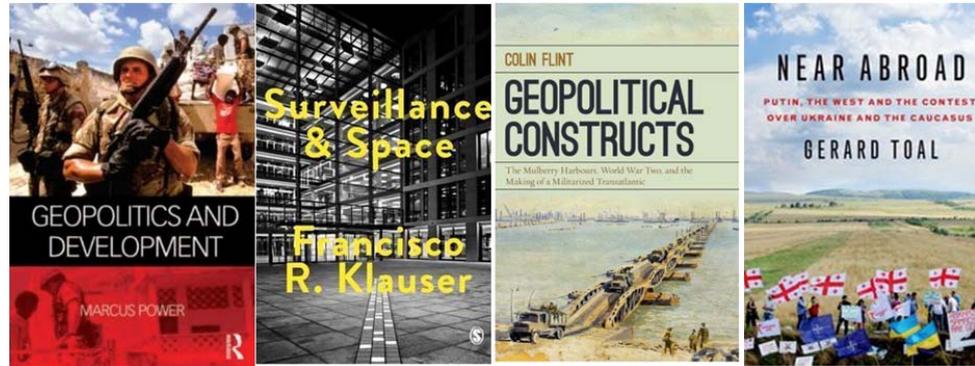
On behalf of the Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, we have the pleasure to invite you to participate at the International Conference “Landscape Dimensions of Sustainable Development: Science – Planning – Governance”. The conference will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia from 4-6 October 2017 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of professor Nikoloz Beruchashvili (1947-2006), internationally-renowned geographer and cartographer, author of the theory of spatiotemporal analysis and synthesis of landscapes, former head of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Landscape Analysis.

Please, register on the site of the conference : <http://iclds.tsu.ge/en/home>
 And send your proposal before 20 March, 2017 to the Conference e-mail: iclds@tsu.ge akushlin@aol.com and jean.radvanyi@inalco.fr

The 2nd ABS World Conference, Vienna (Austria)– Budapest (Hungary) 10-14 July 2018

(No website yet)

Publications



Geopolitical Constructs The Mulberry Harbours, World War Two, and the Making of a Militarized Transatlantic

Colin Flint | Rowman & Littlefield | 2016

This innovative book tells a unique story about D-Day, one that does not concentrate on the soldiers who hit the beaches or the admirals and generals who commanded them. Instead, Colin Flint brings engineers, businessmen, and bureaucrats to center stage. Through them, he offers a different way of thinking about war, one that sees war as an ongoing set of processes in which seemingly isolated acts are part of broader historical developments. Developing the concept of geopolitical constructs to understand wars, the author connects specific events to long-term and global geopolitical arrangements.- *Publisher*

Near Abroad Putin, the West and the Contest over Ukraine and the Caucasus

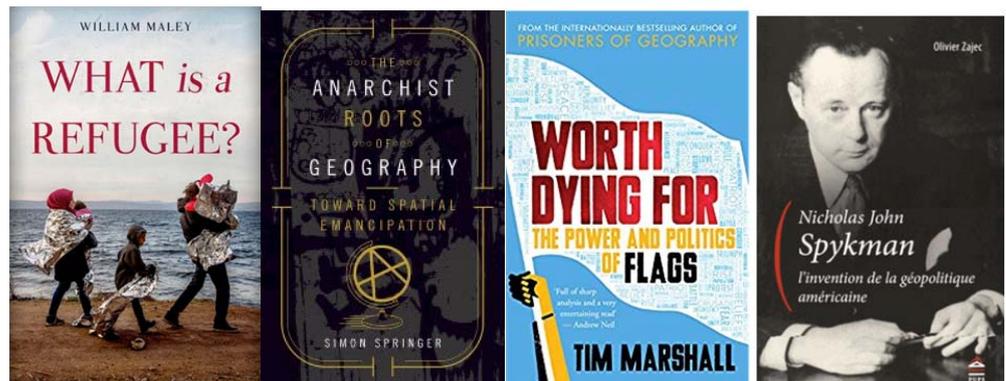
Gerald Toal | Oxford | 2017

Before Russia invaded Ukraine, it invaded Georgia. Both states are part of Russia's "near abroad" - newly independent states that were once part of the Soviet Union and are now Russia's neighbors. While the Russia-Georgia war of 2008 faded from the headlines in the wake of the global recession, the geopolitical contest that created it did not. Six years later, the spectre of a revanchist Russia returned when Putin's forces invaded and annexed the Crimean peninsula, once part of Russia but an internationally recognized part of Ukraine since the Soviet collapse. Crimea's annexation and follow on conflict in eastern Ukraine have generated the greatest geopolitical crisis on the European continent since the end of the Cold War. - *Publisher*

What is a Refugee?

William Maley | Oxford | 2016

With the arrival in Europe of over a million refugees and asylum seekers in 2015, a sense of panic began to spread within the continent and beyond. What is a Refugee? puts these developments into historical context, injecting much-needed objectivity and nuance into contemporary debates over what is to be done. Refugees have been with us for a long time -- although only after the Great War did refugee movements commence on a large scale -- and are ultimately symptoms of the failure of the system of states to protect all who live within it. Providing a terse user's guide to the complex legal status of refugees, Maley argues that states are now reaping the consequences of years of attempts to block access to asylum through safe and 'legal' means. He shows why many mooted 'solutions' to the 'problem' of refugees -- from military intervention to the warehousing of refugees in camps -- are counterproductive, creating environments ripe for the growth of extremism among people who have been denied all hope. In a globalised world, he concludes, wealthy states have the resources to protect refugees. And, as his historical account shows, courageous individuals have treated refugees in the past with striking humanity. States today could do worse than emulate them.- *Publisher*



Geopolitics and Development

Marcus Power | Taylor & Francis | 2017

The focus of the book is both historical and contemporary, exploring the geopolitical enframing and imagination of development in key historical junctures such as the Cold War, the end of empire and the War on Terror but also examining what the rise of new state donors such as China, Brazil and India means for established modes of development co-operation and the development paradigm as a whole. In particular the book seeks to further the dialogue between critical geopolitics, critical IR and critical development studies in setting out the contours of a postcolonial geopolitics of development that both incorporates an engagement with the complex and rich experiences and scholarship of different parts of the non-western world and seeks to move beyond the parochialism of much Political Geography and IR scholarship. Thus a key theme throughout the book will be the ways in which understandings of geopolitics and readings of the contemporary geopolitical landscape are context specific and differ between North and South (and even within and between different regions of the South). This text provides a unique and original analysis and review of key contemporary shifts in the landscape of international development including the emergence of new metageographies of development (such as enclaves), the growing importance of social movements based around resistance and protest in the South and the changing understandings of foreign aid and visions of south-south cooperation.- *Publisher*

Surveillance and Space

Francisco Klauser | Sage Publications | 2017

The digital age is also a surveillance age. Today, computerized systems protect and manage our everyday life; the increasing number of surveillance cameras in public places, the computerized loyalty systems of the retail sector, geo-localized smart-phone applications, or smart traffic and navigation systems. Surveillance is nothing fundamentally new, and yet more and more questions are being asked: Who monitors whom, and how and why? How do surveillance techniques affect socio-spatial practices and relationships? How do they shape the fabrics of our cities, our mobilities, the spaces of the everyday? And what are the implications in terms of border control and the exercise of political power? Surveillance and Space responds to these modern questions by exploring the complex and varied interactions between surveillance and space. In doing so, the book also advances a programmatic reflection on the very possibility of a 'political geography of surveillance'
Publisher

Worth Dying For The Power and Politics of Flags

Tim Marshall | Elliot & Thompson | 2016

When you see your nation's flag fluttering in the breeze, what do you feel? For thousands of years flags have represented our hopes and dreams. We wave them. Burn them. March under their colours. And still, in the 21st century, we die for them. Flags fly at the UN, on the Arab street, from front porches in Texas. They represent the politics of high power as well as the politics of the mob.; From the renewed sense of nationalism in China, to troubled identities in Europe and the USA, to the terrifying rise of Islamic State, the world is a confusing place right now and we need to understand the symbols, old and new, that people are rallying round.; In nine chapters (covering the USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Africa, Latin America, international flags and flags of terror), Tim Marshall draws on more than twenty-five years of global reporting experience to reveal the histories, the power and the politics of the symbols that unite us - and divide us.- *Publisher*

The Anarchist roots of geography. Towards spatial emancipation.

Simon Springer | Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press | 2016

A passionate plea for radical geographers to abandon Karl Marx and embrace anarchism

In *The Anarchist Roots of Geography*, Simon Springer sets the stage for a radical politics of possibility and freedom through a discussion of the insurrectionary geographies that suffuse our daily experiences. By embracing anarchist geographies as kaleidoscopic spatialities that allow for non-hierarchical connections between autonomous entities, Springer configures a new political imagination. - *Publisher*

Nicholas John Spykman. l'invention de la géopolitique américaine. Un itinéraire intellectuel aux origines paradoxales de la théorie réaliste des relations internationales

Olivier Zajec | Presses de l'université Paris-Sorbonne | 2016

Mars 1942. En plein conflit mondial, un professeur américain de relations internationales développe la théorie géopolitique du rimland censée garantir la domination de Washington sur le monde d'après-guerre. Pour les historiens, Nicholas Spykman partage ainsi avec Kennan la réputation d'avoir inspiré la stratégie du containment anticommuniste de la Guerre froide, qui triomphe à partir de 1947. Le réalisme dur de cet « élève de Machiavel », accusé d'être la voix « de la destruction et du nihilisme », lui vaudra d'intenses critiques. - *Publisher*

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With warm thanks to all members of the Steering Committee, the Board of Young Researchers and Student Members, and co-chair Takashi Yamazaki for the previous term.

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