



## IGU E-NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

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New Series 3

July

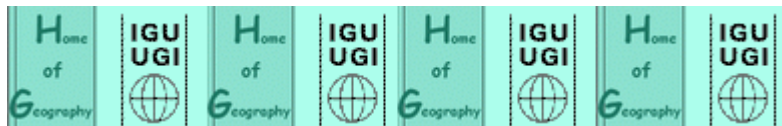
2012

Editor-in-Chief: *Ronald F. Abler*

Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

*This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1500 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.*

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## **1) REMARKS FROM IGU PRESIDENT RON ABLER**

### **1a) English version**

Dear Colleagues,

As you might imagine, much of the IGU's attention for the last several months has been focused on the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Geographical Congress (IGC) that will be held in Cologne later this month. While I know that it is impossible for many in the IGU community to come to such meetings, I hope that those of you who are unable to join the 2,400 delegates the organizers expect in Cologne will be with us in spirit from the 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. And do remember that a series of IGU Regional Conferences lie ahead prior to the 2016 Beijing IGC: Kyoto in 2013, Krakow in 2014, and Moscow in 2015.

The first IGU Congress I attended was held in Moscow in 1976, and the only subsequent Congress I was unable to attend was the 1980 meeting in Tokyo. Thus the Cologne Congress will be my ninth overall and my fourth as a member of the IGU Executive Committee. I'm deeply impressed by the great forethought and detailed preparations that our German colleagues have devoted to organizing and staging the Cologne IGC. Frauke Kraas and Dieter Soyez and their colleagues on the Cologne Local Organizing Committee have done a superb job of planning the meeting and its scientific program. Regrettably, the restrictions on space inherent in holding the Congress on the campus of Cologne University meant that the program could accommodate neither all who submitted presentation abstracts nor everyone who wanted to register for the Congress. The tradeoff for those restrictions, however, is a more affordable Congress for those who are able to attend.

We'll have much to report on the Congress in the next issue of the *IGU E-Newsletter*. In the meantime, my heartfelt thanks to the Cologne Congress organizing committee for putting together what promises to be a fine and memorable IGC. I hope to see many of you in Cologne.

*Ron Abler, President*  
rabler@aag.org

## **b) Version Française**

Chers collègues,

Comme vous pouvez l'imaginer, l'attention de l'UGI durant les derniers mois s'est beaucoup portée sur le 32e Congrès International de Géographie (CIG) qui se tiendra à Cologne à la fin de mois. Même si je sais qu'il est impossible pour beaucoup dans la communauté UGI de participer à cet événement, j'espère que ceux d'entre vous qui ne sont pas en mesure de rejoindre les 2400 délégués que les organisateurs attendent à Cologne seront avec nous en esprit du 26 au 30 Août. Et n'oubliez pas qu'une série de conférences régionales de l'UGI auront lieu avant le CIG 2016 de Pékin, à Kyoto en 2013, à Cracovie en 2014, et à Moscou en 2015.

Le premier Congrès UGI auquel j'ai assisté avait eu lieu à Moscou en 1976, et le seul Congrès ultérieur auquel je n'ai pu assister était à Tokyo en 1980. Ainsi, le Congrès de Cologne sera mon neuvième au total et le quatrième en tant que membre du Comité Exécutif de l'UGI. Je suis très impressionné par la vision et la préparation minutieuse de nos collègues allemands pour l'organisation et la tenue du CIG de Cologne. Frauke Kraas, Dieter Soyez et leurs collègues du Comité d'organisation local de Cologne ont fait un superbe travail de planification de la réunion et de son programme scientifique. Malheureusement, les restrictions d'espace liés à la tenue du Congrès sur le campus de l'Université de Cologne signifient que le programme ne pouvait accueillir ni tous ceux qui ont proposé des présentations, ni tous ceux qui voulaient s'inscrire au congrès. Le prix à payer pour ces restrictions, cependant, est un congrès plus abordable pour ceux qui sont en mesure d'y assister.

Nous aurons beaucoup à faire rapport sur le Congrès dans la prochaine édition de la lettre électronique de l'UGI. En attendant, j'adresse mes remerciements les plus sincères au comité organisateur du Congrès de Cologne pour avoir mis sur pied ce qui promet d'être un CIG mémorable. J'espère vous voir nombreux à Cologne.

*Ron Abler, président*  
rabler@aag.org



## 2) NEXT IGU OFFICIAL INITIATIVES

### IGU 2012 Congress, Cologne, 26-30 August

#### Dear newsletter readers,

The IGC 2012 is getting more crowded and bigger than we have anticipated in our keenest projections. The response from all parts of the world has been and still is overwhelming. We just crossed the threshold of 2,200 registered participants. For us this means that we are now gradually reaching the limits of our capacity. For safety reasons all buildings in the University have a maximum capacity, which we must not exceed. Therefore we will now offer the remaining limited number of tickets and will close the registration for the IGC 2012 by July 15th at the latest. Furthermore, we would like to bring to your attention that there will be no tickets sold during the IGC 2012 in Cologne. Only participants who have registered in advance can attend the IGC 2012. We are sad that this may result in the rejection of some guests, but on the positive side we regard this unexpected demand as a sign of the growing interest in the IGU's activities.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Cologne in August

#### **The Local Organising Committee of the IGC 2012**

#### **Registration of presenters**

Those presenters who failed to register until June 15th are currently removed from the congress programme. Now the authors from the waiting list are contacted in the order defined by the session chairs. Please note that these authors should register quickly, as we only have very limited capacities left. The registration for the IGC 2012 will close on July 15th at the latest without any further extension of the deadline. It will not be possible to purchase tickets on site.

#### **Keynote lectures**

We are happy to announce the final list of keynote speakers and the timing of the four thematic sessions:

#### **Monday, 27.8.2012 Society and Environment**

11:45h Dr. Klaus Töpfer (Former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Former Director of UNEP)

12:30h Prof. Dr. Anne Buttner (Geographer, IGU Past President, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland)

#### **Tuesday, 28.8.2012, Urbanisation and Demographic Change**

11:45h Dr. Martin Lees (Former Secretary General, Club of Rome)

12:30h Prof. Dr. Surinder Aggarwal (Geographer, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India)

#### **Wednesday, 29.8.2012 „Global Change and Globalisation**

11:45h Prof. Dr. Eduardo de Mulder (Initiator of the UN International Year of Planet Earth )

12:30h Prof. Dr. Bruno Messerli (Geographer, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland)

#### **Thursday, 30.8.2012 Risks and Conflicts**

11:45h Alexander J. Müller (Assistant Director General at FAO, Rome, Italy)

12:30h Prof. Dr. Derek Gregory (Geographer, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada)

### **Accommodation**

Please note that you can book hotels via our partner site ([https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?ses\\_id=69fdf8d8890113f14fad9b2fb97eadeb&cs=12&folder\\_id=127](https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?ses_id=69fdf8d8890113f14fad9b2fb97eadeb&cs=12&folder_id=127)) at a reduced price for a limited time only (until August 16th). We strongly recommend that you plan your trip early. On our website you will also find links to our mobility partners German Rail and Star Alliance for reduced fares to come to Cologne.

### **Childcare facilities**

The Local Organising Committee is very pleased to be able to offer childcare provision for children aged 0-12 years. All registered conference participants can book places in this crèche for their children. A nominal fee of 5 EUR per half-day or 10 EUR per day will be charged for this service. The IGC crèche will be managed and staffed by an experienced mobile crèche provider ([www.premium-kinderspiel.de](http://www.premium-kinderspiel.de)) with a team of fully qualified childminders and trained in first aid. The crèche provider is also covered by a comprehensive insurance.

[https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page\\_id=599&ses\\_id=a8b05b74f41ef9dca4384f1925a6019d](https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=599&ses_id=a8b05b74f41ef9dca4384f1925a6019d)

### **Like us on Facebook**

Read more news and get in touch with other participants on facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/igc2012> For Young Researchers there is a separate facebook-group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/390190824357428/>

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### **Chers lecteurs de la lettre d'information**

le nombre de participants au CIG 2012 dépasse de loin nos prévisions les plus audacieuses. L'écho résonnant des quatre coins du monde a été étourdissant et continue à l'être. La barre des 2200 participants vient d'être franchie. Pour nous cela signifie que nous atteignons peu à peu la capacité maximale à ne pas dépasser. C'est pourquoi nous allons maintenant proposer le nombre limité de billets restant et clore les inscriptions pour le CIG 2012 à la date du 15 juillet 2012 dernier délai. De plus, nous attirons votre attention sur le fait qu'il n'y aura pas de vente de billets sur place à Cologne lors du congrès. S'il est certes triste de devoir ainsi refuser des participants, nous considérons cependant, et c'est là le côté positif, cette demande inattendue comme un signe de l'intérêt grandissant que suscitent les activités de l'UGI.

Nous nous réjouissons de vous accueillir bientôt à Cologne

### **Le Comité local d'organisation du CIG 2012**

### **Inscription des conférenciers**

Les personnes ayant déclaré une conférence au CIG 2012, mais qui ne sont pas inscrites avant le 15 juin, ont été, comme annoncé, rayées du programme. Nous contactons donc maintenant les auteurs placés sur la liste d'attente par les directeurs de session. Nous prions instamment ces auteurs de s'inscrire le plus rapidement possible, car il ne nous reste plus que peu de billets d'entrée et l'inscription au congrès ne sera possible que jusqu'au 15 juillet. Ce délai ne sera en aucun cas prolongé. Sur place à Cologne il n'y aura pas de vente de billets.

### **Keynote lectures (discours de fond)**

C'est avec un grand plaisir que nous vous annonçons aujourd'hui la liste définitive des orateurs des discours de fond ainsi que les dates et horaires des quatre sessions par thème:

#### **Lundi 27.08.2012 "Société et environnement"**

**11h45 Dr. Klaus Töpfer (ancien ministre de l'environnement et ancien président du PNUE)**

12h30 Prof. Anne Buttimer (géographe, ancienne présidente de l'UGI, University College Dublin, Dublin, Irlande)

Mardi 28.08.2012 "Urbanisation et changement démographique"

11h45 Dr. Martin Lees (Club of Rome)

12h30 Prof. Surinder Aggarwal (géographe, University of Delhi, New Delhi, Inde)

Mercredi 29.08.2012 "Changement planétaire et mondialisation"

11h45 Prof. Eduardo de Mulder (initiateur de l'Année Internationale de la Planète Terre des Nations Unies) 12h30 Prof. Bruno Messerli (géographe, Universität Bern, Bern, Suisse)

Jeudi 30.08.2012 "Risques et conflits"

11h45 Alexander J. Müller (assistant directeur général à la FAO, Rome, Italie) 12h30 Prof. Derek Gregory (géographe, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada)

### **Hébergement**

Sur notre site partenaire vous trouverez jusqu'au 16 juillet des hébergements à des conditions avantageuses

([https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?ses\\_id=69fdf8d8890113f14fad9b2fb97eadeb&cs=12&folder\\_id=127](https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?ses_id=69fdf8d8890113f14fad9b2fb97eadeb&cs=12&folder_id=127)). Nous vous recommandons donc de profiter de ces offres le plus rapidement possible. En complément, vous trouverez sur notre site des liens vers les offres de nos partenaires de mobilité, la Deutsche Bahn (train) et Star Alliance (avion), qui vous proposent des conditions particulières pour votre voyage à Cologne.

### **Garde d'enfants**

L'équipe organisatrice est heureuse de proposer aux participants au CIG à Cologne un propre jardin d'enfants pouvant accueillir les enfants de 0 à 12 ans. La garde des enfants est assurée par un service professionnel de garde d'enfants et est à la disposition de tous les participants au congrès. La crèche du CIG 2012 sera ouverte du lundi au jeudi de 7h30 à 19h30. La participation aux frais est de 5 euros par demi-journée (matinée ou après-midi) ou 10 euros par journée. Il est indispensable de s'inscrire d'avance par écrit:

([https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page\\_id=598&ses\\_id=bf4bb818580d2465c75a7a5befda5dcc](https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=598&ses_id=bf4bb818580d2465c75a7a5befda5dcc))

### **Facebook**

Sur facebook vous trouverez plus d'informations sur le CIG 2012 et la possibilité d'entrer en contact avec des participants même avant le congrès: <http://www.facebook.com/igc2012> Pour les jeunes chercheurs (étudiants, étudiants en thèse, post-docs), un propre groupe facebook a été mis en place: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/390190824357428/>



### 3) CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT IGU EC ELECTIONS

#### 1) Candidate for President

**Professor Vladimir KOLOSSOV, Russia**

[vladimirkolosov@gmail.com](mailto:vladimirkolosov@gmail.com); [vladimirkolosov@rambler.ru](http://vladimirkolosov.rambler.ru)



**Vladimir Kolosov**

**Vladimir Kolosov**, born in Moscow in 1953, Professor, PhD 1979 Moscow State University, habilitation 1992 (Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences). In 1993 he created the Centre of Geopolitical Studies at the Institute of Geography and is its Head.

Vladimir Kolosov is involved in IGU activities since 1991 – first as a member and in 1996-2004 – as Chair of the Commission on Political Geography. In October 2006 he was elected Vice-President and in 2008 - First Vice-President of the International Geographical Union. He is Deputy Chair of IGU Regional Network of New Independent States and IGU liaison with this network. He initiated, chaired or was a member of Organizing Committees of a great number of IGU workshops and conferences held in Russia, Ukraine, Italy and other countries. As a member of the Steering Committee he contributed to the programme of the International Year of Global Understanding initiated by IGU. He also contributed to a larger involvement of geographers from CIS countries in IGU activities and plays a leading role in the preparation of IGU Regional Conference in Moscow scheduled in 2015.

His research interests lie in the fields of political geography and geopolitics, social geography, world cities and large metropolitan areas. He is the author of about 300 publications, including 110 works abroad and 6 individual monographs; he was the main author and editor of 11 books. Among his main works are: *Political Geography: Problems and Methods* (Leningrad, 1988), *The*

*Spring-89: The Geography and the Anatomy of Parliamentary elections* (Moscow, 1990, with Nikolai Petrov and Leonid Smirnyagin), *L'Atlas de la Russie et des pays proches* (Paris, 1995, with Roger Brunet and Denis Eckert), *The Geopolitical Situation of Russia: Representations and Reality* (Moscow, 2000; an Italian version: Turin, 2001), *The World in the Eyes of Russian Citizens: Myths and Foreign Policy* (Moscow, 2003), *Political Geography and Geopolitics* (Moscow, 2001, 2005, with Nikolai Mironenko), etc. Vladimir Kolossov was the principal investigator or headed the Russian part of 26 research projects supported by European Framework Programmes, CNRS (France), National Science Foundation (USA), Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli (Italy), Open Society Institute and different Russian foundations. A number of scholars in Russia and France prepared their PhD thesis and passed their habilitation under his tutorship. Professor Kolossov taught at Moscow State University and Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

Vladimir Kolossov acquired extensive experience of international scientific cooperation, teaching and research at foreign universities and laboratories. He obtained the scholarship of Brussels Capital Region (1991) and International Boundaries Research Unit (University of Durham, UK, 1992), the Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Colorado at Boulder (1997). In 1999-2003 Vladimir Kolossov was nominated as Professor at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail (France). He was also visiting professor in the universities of Paris-Sorbonne IV, Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Bordeaux and Tampere, and lectured in Ukrainian, Dutch, British, and American universities. He is on the editorial boards of *Political Geography*, *Geopolitics*, *BelGéo*, *Eurasian Geography and Economy*, *Annales géographiques* and other foreign and Russian academic journals. He is elected Foreign Member of French Geographical Society and Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Le Havre.

### **IGU Priorities for 2012-2016**

The following priorities are based on the conclusions from a long discussion among the members of the current IGU Executive and my experience of the participation in IGU activities during last twenty years.

- Contributing to the development of geographical sciences and in particular interdisciplinary research by promoting problem- and region-oriented programmes, cooperation between IGU Commissions, natural and social wings of geography in studying future environmental conditions and their consequences for people, and institutional, economic, and behavioral changes enabling effective steps toward global sustainability.
- Upgrading four annual IGU's meetings scheduled in 2013-2016 (regional conferences in Kyoto, 2013; Krakow, 2014, Moscow, 2015 and the congress in Beijing, 2016), making them more accessible for scholars with limited travel budget, working with local organizers on the improvement of the quality, the flexibility and the interdisciplinary character of their scientific programmes.
- Continuing an active cooperation with the leading coordinating international organizations - the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), enhancing cooperation with other international scientific unions. Using new opportunities for geography and IGU open by a rising concern about global environmental change manifested in a number of recent important international documents, better embedding IGU in global research programmes and networks.



- Increasing the social importance and international visibility of geography in continuing to promote the IGU initiative to have the United Nations decree the International Year on Global Understanding (IYGU).
- Making IGU more attractive for young geographers, in demonstrating the value of participation in its activities and in promoting special sessions, establishing grants and awards for beginning scholars and publication of their results in international journals.
- Paying more attention to the role of geography at school and to geographical education, cooperating with UNESCO and other international organizations in keeping and modernizing geographical curricula.
- Re-establishing contacts with national geographical communities which did not really participated in IGU activities last years, and inviting new members.
- Looking for new sources of funding for IGU operations, in particular, in raising corporate and organizational funds.
- Transforming the IGU web site in an important resource for geographic information and contacts for the global geographic community, filling it with information about the activities of national geographical communities, IGU Commissions and Task Forces, geographical journals and sites, etc.

I am very well aware how ambitious are these objectives and how difficult is to reach them. The living Executive Committee has already made some efforts for achieving them, and I believe that succession, continuity and adaptation to new challenges are the key principles in our work.

## **2) Candidates for Vice President**

(all of them have been nominated by their own country)

### **1) Yves BOQUET, France**

I was born in Montluçon, France in 1956. After graduating from the University of Paris 10-Nanterre (BA 1977, MA 1978, Agrégation de Géographie 1979), I studied Chinese at the Paris Institute of Eastern Languages, then spent 17 years in the United States (1981-1998), teaching at the Washington DC French International School and as an adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland / College Park. During my time in the U.S., I worked on my PhD dissertation (1995, University Paris 4-Sorbonne).

Returning to France, I taught at the University of Picardy in Amiens (1998-2001), then was elected professor at the University of Burgundy in Dijon, my current position. I served as department chair from 2005 to 2007 ; I am in charge of international student exchanges (China, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Romania, Spain...) and teacher training programs. I am now Associate Dean of the School of Human Sciences, and a member of the university's Board of Campus Life and Studies.

I have also lectured at the University of Tours and I was a guest professor at the University of Louisville (Kentucky, USA) for the 2004 Spring semester. I will teach at Hunter College-CUNY (New York City) in June-July 2012 and very likely at the University of the Philippines (Quezon City) for the summer semester of 2013. I have been invited for a future sabbatical time in two Korean universities.

More details online : [http://www.geographiedijon.fr/spip.php?page=boquet&id\\_article=33](http://www.geographiedijon.fr/spip.php?page=boquet&id_article=33)

(in French)

### **Memberships**

A member of the French Association of Geographers since 1979, I became the general secretary of the association and the editor of its academic journal *Bulletin de l'AGF* in 2007. Twice elected to the board of the CNFG (French National Geography Committee), I am also a member of the National Council of the APHG (Association of < French > History and Geography Teachers).

I sit on the editorial boards of three other French academic journals (*Espace-Populations-Sociétés*, *Territoire en Mouvement*, *Revue Géographique de l'Est*), as well as the *Journal of Transport Geography* and the *Philippine Geographical Journal*.

I have been a member of AAG, the Association of American Geographers, since 1984, and currently serve on the board of its Transportation Specialty Group.

### **Services to IGU**

In 2009, I helped create IGU Commission C08-35 (Transport and Geography), where I am currently the international secretary. (Chair : Prof. Richard Knowles, U.-K. ; vice-chair : Prof. Becky Loo, Hong Kong)

I regularly translate into French the minutes of IGU board meetings for IGU's president Ron Abler and secretary Michael Meadows and the IGU newsletter for vice-president Giuliano Bellezza. I am therefore well aware of IGU's projects and workings.

In Cologne 2012, I will co-chair a session on port hinterlands and city logistics, and will organize and lead a post-Congress field trip in Eastern France (Nancy-Dijon-Lyon).

### **Research, Publications and international outreach**

My research has focused mostly on transport and mobilities in large urban areas, as well as population and demographics, with special interest given to the United States, France and Eastern Asia (China, Philippines). My PhD dissertation analyzed the patterns of development and urban change in the Washington-Baltimore urban corridor, and subsequent papers have dealt with topics such as air transportation, high-speed rail, suburbanization, and redevelopment of waterfronts. I have edited several special issues of journals, most recently on China's populations (*Espaces-Populations-Sociétés*) (2010) and maritime transportation systems (*Territoire en Mouvement*) (2011), working with authors from several continents.

- I have published college-level textbooks on the geography of the United States and China, and on Globalization, and I am part of a international group working on a comparative geography of China and the United States. I am also working on the implementation of a cooperation agreement between the Universities of Burgundy and the Philippines (Quezon City) for our Masters degree program « Transport/Mobilities/Environment/Climate ».

- I have given invited talks in more than fifteen universities in the United States, China, Singapore, Canada, Hong Kong, Macau, the Philippines and South Korea, and in the past year alone I attended international conferences in Vietnam, Hong Kong, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Chile and India.

- A native French speaker, bilingual level in English, fluent in Spanish, I also studied German, Italian and Chinese (Putonghua), I read Portuguese, I can speak a little Russian, and I am currently learning Tagalog.

### **Priorities for IGU**

I would like to use the opportunities given by a possible position on the IGU executive board, where I already know most current members, to develop actions in three main directions :

The development of cooperative and comparative research programs between realms of geography which are still too insular due to language difficulties. The exchange of intellectual and research traditions, the sharing of networks would be highly profitable to all. IGU should

encourage the development of multilingual research and publication, maybe by developing an Internet-based tool of translation of geographic terms, that would help everybody to better understand the geographic literature published in other languages and improve the formal quality of papers published in English by non-English speakers (the same could be said for other languages). IGU should use its web site to forward information about meetings taking place in different parts of the world, and even within continents (such as Europe, where French, British, German geographers, to name a few, still participate very little in meetings held in the neighboring country).

It seems also important to help geographers from nations with limited resources to have more contacts and opportunities to interact with their counterparts in other areas. I would like to give special attention to countries in Southeast Asia, given my growing network of contacts in that part of the world (Philippines, Vietnam...), including through the South East Asian Geographers Association (SEAGA).

IGU should foster programs for secondary school teachers, maybe by developing textbooks written by specialists in the field at the level of high school students, providing less-biased views of major world issues of interest to geographers such as migration, urban development, globalization, sea-level rise, food issues, hazards, mountain and coastal environments, borders, to name just a few. At a time when many countries are cutting on geographic education, if it still exists, IGU, by helping to train better-educated citizens around our shared planet, would show the relevance of geography in our times.



**Yves Boquet**

and



**Chang-yi David Chang**

## **2) Chang-Yi David CHANG, Taiwan**

President of the Institute of Environment and Resources, Taiwan  
Professor of Geography Department, National Taiwan University

## **I. Research Interests:**

Geography of Sustainable Development

Island Geography

Environmental Resources, Conservation and Management

## **II. Statement of Intention:**

If I am elected to serve as an IGU Vice President, I shall do my best to involve in as many aspects for the IGU as I could. That includes to initiate, to provide, to facilitate and to promote for the objectives of IGU. As the IGU objects have indicated excellent ambitions and the IGU is consisted of experts of various subfields, I take the skill of 4Cs important for the leadership of an IGU Vice President. The skill for 4Cs also implies the integrated nature of the geography as a discipline. The 4Cs refer to the leadership characteristics for collaboration, communication, cooperation, and coordination. They are 4 Cs for any successful project or task. In building achievement for making geography a truly integrated whole and to make an impact for our World, I consider 4Cs the most important essences in the process of geographical education and capability building.

For educating better environmental values, my experience in a volunteers' network associated with various community universities shall provide excellent continuing education for environmental values and justices. As geographers, we can apply and promote these abilities more appropriately and efficiently to make our global world a better one.

### **Communication:**

Dialogues among geographers in various subfields and between colleagues in related disciplines are the musts for research collaboration and for better solutions of environmental problems. With the experience of membership in several IGU commissions since 1982, and now as the chair of IGU Commission on Islands, I have the capacity and shall be delighted to communicate with related commissions and groups for collaborative research and a better functioning of the Union.

### **Collaboration:**

With the increasingly globalized world and the complexity of geographical issues, collaborations among geographers and between geographers and colleagues of related disciplines are becoming more important than ever before. As a board member of the IHDP (International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change) in Taiwan, I shall promote, in my capacity, both basic and applied research in related topics and regions.

### **Cooperation:**

With my experience as board member of the Taiwan National Committee for ICSU (International Council for Science), President of Geographical Society of China-locate in Taipei (1999-2003) and the President of the Institute of Environment and Resources of Taiwan, I shall promote cooperation among IGU National Committees and among Scientific Unions, in issues such as cross boarder environmental change, global warming and land use restructuring issues, etc.

### **Coordination:**

As a board member of the National Council for Sustainable Development and the President of the Institute of Environment and Resources, I have the capacity and am willing to coordinate international sustainability research and training projects related to conservation and management of environmental resources. With the experience I had in organizing the First Meeting of IGU Study Group of Marginal Regions (1993), the Fourth Asian Urbanization Conference (1994), Advanced Training Workshop on Land Use and Land Cover Change for START (2002), the Inaugural Joint Meeting of IGU Commission on Islands and IGU Commission on Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges and Rights (2007), and most importantly with the full support of my fellow geographers in Taiwan, I would like to take the possible

chance of becoming a Vice President of the IGU to coordinate for a successful IGU Regional Conference in 2018.

### 3) Joos DROOGLEVER-FORTUIJN, The Netherlands

[j.c.droogleeverfortuijn@uva.nl](mailto:j.c.droogleeverfortuijn@uva.nl)

#### **Short Curriculum Vitae**

Joos Droogleever Fortuijn is associate professor in human geography and Head of Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies of the University of Amsterdam. She completed her Master Human Geography at the University of Amsterdam in 1977 and her PhD at the University of Amsterdam in 1993. She published on urban geography, rural geography, gender and ageing. The main topics in her publications relate to the gendered aspects of activity involvement and networks of families with children and older women and men from an urban-rural and European comparative perspective. She teaches Qualitative Methods in the bachelor Geography, and Thesis Preparation in the master Geography.

From 2000-2004 she was Chair of the Commission on Gender and Geography of the International Geographical Union; in the period 1992-2000 she was member of the executive committee of this Commission. From 1990-1998 she coordinated the ERASMUS/SOCRATES network on Geography and Gender, a network of six European universities funded by the European Commission in the ERASMUS/ SOCRATES

#### **Research Profile**

In substantive terms my research can be placed in the field of urban geography, rural geography, gender studies and ageing studies. My work focuses on the gendered aspects of activity involvement and social networks of women and men from an urban-rural and European comparative perspective. This research is embedded in the time-geography tradition founded in the early 1970s by the Swedish geographer Torsten Hägerstrand and the transformation of this tradition in geographical gender studies by Susan Hanson, Geraldine Pratt, Jacqueline Tivers, Helen Jarvis and others. Time-geography focuses on day paths and life paths of individuals and the way these paths are shaped in and by the social and spatial context in which they live. The aim of my research is to understand how women and men in different stages of the life course (as youth, young adults, parents with children and older adults) experience physical, social and institutional-political constraints from their environment and are actively managing the environment in which they live. In terms of methods my research is field-work based work with a combination of quantitative, surveybased research and qualitative research based on interviews. Between 2001 and 2003 I participated in the *European Study of Adult Well-being (ESAW)*, a EU-FP5 funded research project on material security, social support networks, activity involvement, health, mental efficacy and well-being. This interdisciplinary gerontology network of universities in six countries (United Kingdom, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria, Sweden and the Netherlands) was coordinated by Clare Wenger, University of Wales in Bangor.

#### **Teaching Profile**

Research-oriented and research-based teaching in geography forms the main focus in my courses. In courses on basic academic skills and urban geography projects for first year bachelor students human geography and urban and regional planning, courses on qualitative research methods and field work for second year bachelor students, thesis projects for third year bachelor students and thesis preparation for master students in human geography students are actively engaged in designing a research proposal, in field-work based data collection and data analysis and in writing reports and theses. Other courses relate to introduction in human geography, urban geography

and geography and gender. Between 1990 and 1998 I coordinated the ERASMUS-SOCRATES network *Geography and Gender*, funded by the European Commission. This network of six European universities organized eight times a successful intensive programme for undergraduate and graduate students. As part of this intensive programme I have given classes on gender themes at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 1993 and 1998, at the University of Durham in 1991 and 1996, at Roskilde University Center in 1994 and at the Technical University of Athens in 1995. I have published on teaching geography in higher education in *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education*, *Geographica Helvetica* and *Documenti d'Analisi de Geografia*.

### **Statement of intent**

Geography is everywhere. Geography is at the center of the current and coming global issues and concerns. The world population has now passed the threshold of 7 billion and will increase with a further billion in about the next decade. Population increase is unevenly distributed around the world. Some countries, regions, and cities are facing the challenges of an ageing population and a shrinking number of people. Other parts of the world see an amazing population increase with more than 50% of their people younger than 18 years.

These unequal population developments go hand in hand with shifting processes of economic and financial growth and stagnation, with shifting flows of people, goods and information, with political conflicts, with environmental injustice and unequal access to and control over land, water, food and natural resources, and with social injustice and inequality along lines of class, gender, ethnicity, age and place. More than half of the world population lives in cities. Cities can be seen as centers of innovation, opportunities for a better future and excitement. At the same time these processes of urbanisation raise challenges in terms of governance, resilience and sustainability. Compounding the challenges of these developments in the human realm are projected changes in climate with concomitant implications for the biosphere and growth of environmental hazards. Geographers are pre-eminently *experts* on these global issues and the resulting social, environmental, and spatial differentiation and inequalities locally. Geographers are *teachers*. They educate the future generations of experts and stimulate the formation of young geographers into knowledgeable and critically thinking intellectuals. The International Geographical Union, as the global community of geography experts and university teachers from a large number of countries in all parts of the world, brings together global expertise and forms an important forum for knowledge development, exchange and debate. In order to enhance the prominence of the IGU in the global academic and public debate it is of vital importance to focus in the next period on:

- stimulating knowledge development and exchange in joint activities of several IGU Commissions and Study Groups and joint activities of the IGU and other professional and nongovernmental organizations.
- stimulating joint curriculum development and exchange of course materials in university teaching, especially taking advantage of current and developing communication technologies.
- increasing the involvement of postdocs and young university lecturers, female geographers and geographers from low-income countries in order to profit from the broad scope of expertise of these groups.



**Joos Drooglever-Fortuijn**



and

**Anton Gosar**

#### **4) Anton GOSAR, Slovenja**

##### **Curriculum vitae:**

ANTON GOSAR received his MSc from the University of Colorado, USA, and PhD from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Presently he is employed as a Full Professor (in geography) at the young and dynamic University of Primorska at Koper/Capodistria. For almost three decades, he worked at the University of Ljubljana, but first gained work experiences at the Kompas Yugoslavia Travel Agency. He was professionally active at foreign institutions of higher education for several years: two years in Munich, Germany; four years in the United States of America – at universities in Boulder, Colorado, Portland, Oregon, and Springfield, Missouri; and one year in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has received scholarship and research grants from the Fulbright, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) and Erskine foundations. His professional work and publications cover the Geography of Tourism and Recreation, Political Geography, Population Geography, and Social Geography. He was a member of the Austro-German team of professionals that, in the 1970's, made the Methodology and Theory of Social Geography a basic tool in contemporary research and understanding of spatial processes.

He is professionally interested in the regions of Southeastern Europe (the Balkans), the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Eastern Alps. After the disintegration of Yugoslavia, his “Slovenia – A Tourist Guide”, produced in co-authorship with M. Jeršič, placed Slovenia on the world map of tourist destinations. This comprehensive description of tourist attractions and routes received the world's “Best Tour Book” prize in 1995. For his internationally recognized work, he was awarded the title “Ambassador of Science of the Republic of Slovenia” (2005) and named “The Envoy of Science” (2010). He has also received the highest recognition from his professional associations and work environments. Namely, he has been the head of geography departments, vice-dean and dean of faculties/colleges in Ljubljana and Koper/Capodistria. He acted as vice-president of the National Council of Higher Education (2002–2006) and of UNESCO Slovenia (2004–2008). At present, he acts as Chair of the Commission on Political Geography of the International Geographic Union (CPG IGU) and has been, since 1992, a member of the prestigious International Academy of Tourism Studies (IAST), as well as of several national professional associations. In relation to these activities, he was in 2008 named Honorary Member of the Austrian Geographic Society.

**Statement of Intent.** In the first decade of my professional life, I worked in the tourism sector of the economy. Since that time, I have worked in academia and in the discipline of geography. If

elected, I will use the organizational skills I have obtained throughout my career to work with local hosts, and the IGU president and Secretariat, to enrich the professional outcome of the meetings, as well as to limit travel budgets related to the IGU and IGU commission meetings. At conferences, geographers expect special professional care, as their attendance at meetings has multiple, diverse goals. Travel agencies, hired by the organizer, often consider the task as a copy-cat exercise, proven to be successful at conferences of other professions (example: health related meetings, meeting of marketing professionals, etc.). Within the profession, I have experienced (too) many excellent, but yet fragmented and mono-structured studies. I believe that the time in our profession has come for research to be upgraded through different optics.

I often wonder why research on climatic changes often relates to geographic experts in climatology (and some associated physical geographers) solely. Climatic conditions, water, and other aspects of nature experiencing change, are similarly important subjects to study within political geography (being chair of the Commission on Political Geography of the IGU for 6 years), the geography of tourism, etc. Therefore, I warmly support not only inter-, but also intra-disciplinary projects. Working within the profession for almost 30 years, and having the knowledge of several Slavic, English, German, and Romance languages, has encouraged the idea to start working on a multi-lingual encyclopedia of basic geographic terms. By studying and teaching in the Slavic, German, and Anglo-Saxon worlds, I have noticed that the meaning of geographical terms, being translated, is not equally understood within the global profession. A good example is the theory and methodology of social geography. If elected, I am ready to work towards better understanding of geographers working professionally in different language areas. The Beijing IGU global conference will be a good opportunity to report on the representation, and of the quantity and quality, of professional sub-disciplines in countries around the world. If elected, I am willing to prepare, along with colleagues, a project that would focus on and analyze this issue. From my experience, the non-existence of sub-discipline research in several countries of the world hinders the overall development of the profession.

#### **5) Mohammad Shawki MAKKI, Saudi Arabia**

Makki14@live.com

**Biographical Notes:** Professor Makki has completed his B.A.(Honours) in Geography at King Saud University in 1971. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Urban Geography from Durham University, U.K. in 1976 and 1979 respectively. Prof. Makki served at King Saud University for many years, including terms as deputy chairman and chairman of the geography department (1982-1984; 1984-1994), director of the Research Center of the College of Arts (1995-1997), and Chairman of the Geographical Places names Unit (1999 till now). He held the post of Treasurer, Secretary General, Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Saudi Geographical Society. Professor Makki Chaired the Editorial Board of Research Paper, Research Studies, and the Arab Journal of GIS. He served as an Editorial Member and Editorial Advisory Board at AWG, Al-Darah Magazine, Medina Research Center Magazine, and King Saud Magazine (Arts). He worked as expert advisor at the Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Interior, and the Supreme Council for Riyadh Development. He won several prizes and awards including King Abdul Aziz Award, First Grade (2000), and the prize of the Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (2007). He is currently chairman of the Saudi Geographical Society (SGS). He was a founder member of the steering committee of the SGS in 1985, and a founder member of the steering committee of the



GCCGS in 2001. He was the chairman of the steering committee of the second symposium of Saudi geography departments held in Riyadh in 1985. Professor Makki was a vice chairman of the steering committee of the Third symposium of the Arab Geographers held in Riyadh in 2003, and chairman of the scientific committee of the same symposium.

Professor Makki has published more than 60 papers and books in Urban Geography, Population Geography, and Medina City Geography. He has also written several essays in journals and newspapers explaining modern geography to the public.

### **Priorities for the IGU:**

Professor Makki feels that the establishment of the IGU is one of the outreaching products of recent history. Although the IGU was very successful in several aspects, one of which is developing interaction with world systems and organizations through geographer members in the IGU, he feels there is more to be done to participate equally in such interaction, especially with the developing world. During the 85 years of the IGU history the IGU international conferences were held twice in the Arab world, the first one was held in Cairo in 1925 and the second one in Tunisia in 2008, while it has assembled, for example, more than six times in Europe. However, the broad vision of my nomination, if Professor Makki if he was elected for the job, will concentrate, in addition to what is required and decided by the IGU Executive Committee, on the following aspects:

1. To focus on changing inferior attitudes toward geography in developing world, and shedding more light on geography's potential as a problem-solving science.
2. Putting the geographical and environmental problems of the Arab World in the context of the IGU international interest. These problems include desertification issues, water consumption, and environmental awareness to reach sustainable development, land use reservation in rural areas, population growth and immigration.
3. Encouraging the active committees of the task forces in the IGU to facilitate the involvement of non-English speakers to participate in their activities by, for example, making the whole exam or, at least, the questions of the Geographical Olympiads, in native languages of the participants, and keep the answers in English. I believe such step, will enhance the cooperation between nations and encourage more participation which is very beneficial to confirm and develop geographical thought and approaches throughout the whole world.
4. Encourage the study groups in the IGU to stick to their scientific goals and give more attention to diverse areas of the world, especially the Arab geographers, to participate in their projects. I believe that the engagement in the IGU activities, through these groups and task forces, will enhance self-confidence about the importance of geography as a field which can contribute positively in development of natural and human resources with no discrimination based on region, country, race or religion.
5. Encouraging Arab countries to be members of the IGU.
6. Encouraging Arab geographers to be corresponding members of the IGU.
7. Encouraging Arab countries to participate in activities which broaden the vision of the young generation towards geography through for example, the geographic Olympiads. This participation should be regarded as an important step in the implementation of a strategy to optimize and enhance the visibility of Arab geography in the international arena.

8. Encouraging more involvement of female geographers, especially in the Arab World, in the wide spectrum of activities and organizations in the IGU.
9. Encouraging the translation of the IGU website to major languages of the world to offer access to a wider range of beneficiaries.

Professor Makki believes that intensifying work to achieve the scientific and social goals of the IGU will verify the fact the geography can lead to peaceful life, enhanced relations between nations, contribute to the dialogue of civilizations, and to develop the ability of geographers in the context of the academic teaching, research and even public life.



**Mohammed Shawki Makki                      and                      Olukayode Oyesiku**

#### **6) Oluykayode OYESIKU, Nigeria**

**Olukayode Oyesiku** was born in 1957 and has been Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the Department of Geography and Regional Planning, Olabisi Onabanjo University (formerly Ogun State University) Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria, since 1998, and was the pioneer Coordinator in 1992 of the first ever full-fledge Postgraduate programme in Transportation Geography in Nigeria offering Postgraduate Diploma to PhD in Transport at the first established Centre for Transport Studies in any Nigerian University until he was appointed the Head of Department 1994. He was the Head of Department between 1994 and 1996, and later between 2001 and 2004. He also served as Dean, Faculty of Social and Management Sciences of the University between 1997 and 2000, and between 2004 and 2005 before he was appointed the first and pioneer Vice Chancellor of the first ever University of Education in Nigeria, the Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, Nigeria. He served in that capacity till 2010 at the expiration of the term of office and was immediately appointed the Executive Secretary, State Bureau of Tertiary Institutions between May 2010 and September 2011.

Prof. Oyesiku observes that in sub-Saharan Africa the discipline of geography in recent times is becoming less understood, in the face of advanced technology & information systems that have simplify the phenomena that have emerged in space and the process that produced spatial organisation of the phenomena. Fewer students are being enrolled in Universities' Department of Geography and those that eventually graduated in the discipline have less understanding of their future career, a situation that eventually led to many graduate students not pursuing higher degree in the discipline and subsequently explore other related disciplines. More interestingly, how land uses are arranged in space to ensure proper use of the environment and promote greater harmonious interaction between nature and human realms are no longer giving deserved attention. Moreover, the contribution of Geography as bedrock of information to other related disciplines is becoming less appreciated, particularly since the Prof. Mabogunje active era in the early 1980s.

In the light of this, Prof. Oyesiku's key role of a Vice President of the IGU is to invigorate and regenerate the discipline through the promotion of the study of geographical problems and by using the IGU as the platform to provide for the greater participation of geographers in the work of relevant international organizations as stated in the IGU objectives. In addition, his role is to foster the integration of developments in the field of geographical education and research across the world with the developing countries, particularly the sub-Saharan Africa by this assisting the executive committee of IGU in its task to facilitate diffusion of data and documentation between all other member countries. IGU requires greater participation of member countries especially those from the global south to facilitate diffusion of geographic knowledge, it would be Prof. Oyesiku's role to utilise his existing network, particularly among geographers in related disciplines to develop their capacity to participate in IGU agenda.

Prof. Oyesiku is very concerned about the role of Geography in education, government, and organized private business and the implication of this to analyzing and understanding the contemporary relationship between people and places. Prof. Oyesiku is well grounded in applied Geography and application of geographic findings and information in urban and regional development planning in developing countries and in Africa in particular. This would enhance frontier of geographical investigation and problems relating to Megacities and sustainable land use of IGU Commissions. Moreover, based on Prof. Oyesiku's the quality of geography education and the professional development, he will work in Collaboration with IGU committees on issues affecting graduate education, professional development, and employment in geography with a view to enhancing the preparation of geographers for professional careers in academia, organized private sector/business, government, and non-profit sectors.

## **7) Mark W. ROSENBERG, Canada**

Mark Rosenberg (mark.rosenberg@queensu.ca) received his Honours B.A. (1975) from the University of Toronto and his M.Sc. (1976) and Ph.D. (1980) from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He is currently a Professor of Geography and cross-appointed as a Professor in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Queen's University (Canada). Mark Rosenberg has received numerous awards for his scholarship, teaching, and service to Geography including: the Award for Service to the Profession of Geography given by the Canadian Association of Geographers (1999); an Erskine Fellowship at

the University of Canterbury in New Zealand (2001); the first winner of the Queen's University Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision in the Social Sciences and Humanities (2006); Honorary Professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (2008); and Visiting Professorship for Senior International Scientists Chinese Academy of Sciences (2010). He is author or co-author of 2 books, 203 peer-reviewed papers, commentaries, reports and book reviews and 220 scientific papers presented at various national and international meetings.

Mark Rosenberg has made numerous contributions to geography at the national and international level. At the national level, He was Chairperson, Medical Geography Study Group of the Canadian Association of Geographers, (1987-1990), Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Association of Geographers (1991-1997), and President, Canadian Regional Science Association (1991-1992). Internationally, Mark Rosenberg was Chairperson, AAG Medical Geography Specialty Group (1998-2000) and Chairperson of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Health and the Environment (2000-2008). On behalf of the four global change programs (IHDP, DIVERSITAS, IGBP and WCRP), he is the current Co-Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Earth System Science Partnership Joint Project on Global Environmental Change and Human Health (ESSP-GECHH).

Through his research and contributions to the IGU, various national associations, and international bodies, Mark Rosenberg has worked tirelessly to promote geography in general, and to build and support for the recognition of geographers in health science research around the world. Under his leadership, the IGU Commission on Health and the Environment held meetings in Brazil, Canada, China, France, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Jamaica, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. One of the key ingredients to his leadership, has been the support of students and new post-doctoral geographers at these meetings.

#### *Priorities for the IGU.*

1. To develop and implement a strategy working with the commissions, task forces and national committees to encourage a new generation of post-doctoral geographers to become active participants in the IGU;
2. To develop and implement a strategy working with the commissions, task forces and national committees to increase the participation of geography students in the IGU;
3. To develop and implement a strategy working with the commissions, task forces and national committees to see more IGU meetings in countries in the developing world;
4. To use the experience he has gained through national associations, the IGU and with the four global change programs to increase the participation of geographers in international research.



**Marc W. Rosenberg**

and



**Jarkko Saarinen**

### **8) Jarko SAARINEN, Finland**

Professor Jarkko Saarinen was born in Tampere, Finland, in 1968. He received his MSc (Geography, 1994) and PhD (Geography, 2001) at the University of Oulu, Finland. He has a wide and international academic work experience: Researcher/Senior Researcher at the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) (1994-1999, 2002), Director of National Park, Metla (1999-2001), (joint) Professor at the University of Lapland & Metla (2003), Professor of Geography, University of Oulu, 2003 to present. He has worked as a Visiting Scholar at the Aldo Leopold Institute, USA, in 1996, as a Visiting Professor at the University of Botswana (2008-2010) and as a Research Affiliate at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa from 2011 to present. Since 2006 he has been the Chairperson of the IGU Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change. He is currently the Vice-Chairperson of the IGU National Committee in Finland.

Based on his own experiences Professor Saarinen sees the IGU as deeply international academic structure that has excellent position to steer the global geographical community in the future: The IGU connects geographers and the various geographical traditions and approaches globally and provides support for the coherence and development of the discipline. The IGU meetings and commissions link geographical and sister disciplines' views and thus, provide opportunities for inter- and multi-disciplinary research activities which are needed in a complex and globalized world. On this basis Professor Saarinen would further emphasise the role of the Commissions, Communication and Global North-Global South Connections in the IGU activities in future.

The Commissions (and Task Forces) form the core of the IGU; the main activities are materialized through the Commission work – during the IGU meetings but especially in between and outside them. Young geographers are introduced to the IGU and international collaboration mainly via Commission work which provides connections between established and young geographers and, thus, form an international basis for geographical identification and learning. To support the core activities in the Commissions, communication is vital. Communication is also needed to integrate the Commissions/Task Forces to the planning processes of the IGU work and activities. In addition, communication is needed between the IGU and the Local Conference Organisers and especially between the IGU and the National Committees. The role of the latter

could be much more central in their countries but in many cases urgent support is needed, especially in the Global South, as is manifested in a geographically biased participation levels in the IGU activities. Focusing and further developing the Global North-Global South connections would support the IGU as truly international organization. Based on general observations and on his own research and experience Professor Saarinen strongly believes the North-South connections will also provide fruitful and important possibilities for geographical research in the future and thus, a window to show the value of geographical education and research in various international and national academic and policy contexts.

## 9) R.B. SINGH, India

### Dr. R.B.Singh: Brief Curriculum Vitae

**Institutional Affiliation:** Since 1985 Serving as Lecturer, UGC Research Scientist-B (Reader), UGC Research Scientist- C (Professor), Associate Professor and Deputy Coordinator, UGC – DRS Program in the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi- 110007, India. E-mail: [rbsgeo@hotmail.com](mailto:rbsgeo@hotmail.com) / [rbsgeo1@yahoo.com](mailto:rbsgeo1@yahoo.com)

**Education:** M.A. in 1977, Ph.D. in 1981 (Geography), Diploma in Statistics in 1979 (all from the Banaras Hindu University), UNITAR Training in GIS Technology in the Field of Environment during 1988-89 from UNITAR/UNEP-GRID-Geneva and EPFL, Laussane (Switzerland).

**Professional Experience:** Dr. R.B. Singh is presently Managing Editor, Journal of the National Association of Geographers, India, (NAGI); Member, Indian National Science Academy (INSA) - IUGG-IGU Joint National Committee; Vice-Chair-IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity; Associate Faculty, Global Earth System Governance Project of ESSP, The Netherlands since 2008. Earlier, he has been Secretary General of National Association of Geographers, India (2001-2011); Special Representative-World Association of Soil and Water Conservation; Member, Study Group for Preparation of NCR Plan-2021; Ex South Asian Representative in Commonwealth Geographical Bureau (1992-2000); Member, ICAR Program on Indo-Gangetic Plains - Land use/Cover Change and Food Security; Nominated Member Curriculum Development for Geoinformatics jointly nominated by UGC and Department of Space, Govt. of India; Ex Provost, Gwyer Hall, University of Delhi and Ex-Recorder-Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).

Dr. Singh has specialized in Environmental Studies, Climate Change, Regional Development, Land Use/Cover Change, Disaster Management, Remote Sensing and GIS Technology. He has to his credit 37 research volumes/books and more than 175 research papers published in national and international journals (i.e. Physical Geography, Agriculture, Ecosystem and Environment, Hydrological Processes, Mountain Research and Development, Journal of Mountain Science, Advances in Earth Science, Advances in Limnology, IAHS Red Book Pub., Geographica, Asian Geographer, Acta hydrotechnica, Indonesian Jl. of Geography, Journal of Geography Education, AOGS Pub., Tourism Recreation Research, Annals of NAGI, Transactions of IIG, The Geographer, The Indian Geographical Jl.).

In 1988 the UNESCO/International Social Science Council (Paris) awarded him Research and Study Grants Award in Social and Human Sciences. Earlier he was President of Geography section of Indian Academy of Social Sciences. He was also associated with three prestigious international collaborative research programs such as ICSSR-IDPAD Project with University of

Groningen as Project Director on Environmental Degradation and its Socio-economic Implications in the Rural -Urban Fringe of Delhi and CIDA-SICI Project with University of Manitoba as Chief Co-investigator on Urban Development and Environmental Impacts in Mountain Context and DFID Res. Project with Imperial College, London on Enhancing Food Chain Integrity: Quality Assurance Mechanisms for Air Pollution Impacts on Vegetable Systems in India. He has supervised 26 Ph.D. and 61 M. Phil students. He was also associated with Nordic Inst. of Asian Studies, Copenhagen (Denmark) in 1998 and Visiting Professor for delivering invited Lectures at the University of Turku (Finland) in 2008 and 2010. He was also associated as one of the contributors in the famous-The World Atlas-Earth Concise (2008) prepared by Millennium House Ltd., NSW, Australia.

### **Statement of Intent and Priorities as IGU Vice-President**

Since 1984 IGU Paris Congress, I have attended all Main Congresses and most of the IGU Regional Conferences and have been actively participating in the academic programs of various IGU Commissions and Working Groups. My previous assignments as Full Member in the IGU Commissions/Study Groups include Mountain Geocology and Resource Management (1988-92), Development Issues in Marginal Lands (1992-1996), Land Use and Cover Change (1996-2004) and Biogeography and Biodiversity (2004-2008). Presently I am Vice Chair of the IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity (2008-2012). As a geographer, I strongly believe in demonstrating interdisciplinary orientation and professionalism in the use of geographical knowledge and skills. In 1991, I had also organized an interdisciplinary IGU Seminar at Delhi in which 4 IGU Commissions/Groups participated with the partial support provided by the IGU. As Secretary General of the National Association of Geographers, I have organized various sessions for promoting IGU Initiative - Culture and Civilization for Human Development in the Indian Congresses. As Head of the Indian Delegation to IGU Tunis (2008), I contributed in the IGU Finance Committee during General Assembly. I am committed to maintain professional standards in the IGU through ongoing academic research and knowledge dissemination activities in South Asia.

In terms of international research and collaboration, I have contributed for developing research linkages with USA, Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, UK, Germany, China and Finland. I will continue to engage various other nations for similar initiatives under the umbrella of IGU. I have tried my best to demonstrate our research activities and prestige of the geography by participating in more than thirty five countries through support of famous international bodies like UNESCO, UNEP, UNU, UNCRD, UN-IDNDR, WMO-WCRP, ICIMOD, NASDA, UNITAR, NASA, IGBP, IAHS, GWSP, MAIRS and IHDP. I will further involve myself deeply with these organizations for strengthening linkages with IGU.

Future professional focus will include:

- 1) Organizing annual IGU global open day for communicating research results to various cross sections of the society,
- 2) Establishing Home of Geography at National Level particularly in developing countries to serve as a focal point for collecting and distributing information to geographers and promoting interactions between geography with allied disciplines, national and international research organizations,
- 3) Suggesting national committees to help regular curriculum revision incorporating fundamental and modern techniques and contemporary paradigms such as climate change and millennium development goals. There is a need for an IGU Manual on Curriculum Development.

5) IGU Congress should become a platform for dialogue and collaborative research programs on contemporary thematic areas and critical regions by bridging gaps between geographers, policy makers and community leaders.

6) For improving financial health of the IGU, evolving sustainable financial sources through fixing IGU share from each registration fee at main Congress and regional conferences/or a reasonable IGU membership fee essential for participating in the Congress/regional conferences.

7) Developing strategies for communication, focusing on geographers from developing countries for improving their participation in Congress to make IGU more participatory.

I would like to assure all IGU office bearers and national committees to keep up with their expectations if elected as Vice-President.



**R.B.Singh**

**and**



**Dietrich Soyez**

**10) Dietrich SOYEZ, Germany**  
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*Why I wish to run for another term*

As stated almost four years ago, the main task of my Executive Committee term from 2008 to 2012 was - and still is - to ensure the smooth co-ordination and co-operation of the IGC Cologne 2012 Local Organisational Committee/LOC with the IGU Executive Committee. While some months still remain, the main milestones for the organisation of the congress have been achieved in excellent and trusting co-operation with the EC and IGU commissions and task forces. For this reason I am confident that this main task will be accomplished to the satisfaction of all actors involved. IGC Cologne will be characterised by a down-to-earth approach, numerous innovative features and a clear focus on, and lots of opportunities for our young researchers, especially from outside Europe and North America.

I wish to run again for the upcoming term 2012 to 2016 with two main objectives:

*Firstly*, to contribute to the continuity of EC work while addressing with continued good teamwork ongoing tasks such as providing good value for geographic communities worldwide, consistently improving our cost-efficiency as well as increasing our efforts to (re-)integrate the far too large number of countries and colleagues outside our union;



*secondly*, to share our inside knowledge of organising an IGC gained in Cologne with the new EC and the local organisers of upcoming IGU regional and international congresses.

This said, I would like to emphasize that I fully support both the statutes of IGU and the goals of the current missions statements, and that I would be both honoured and pleased to contribute actively to these and any other tasks that the future EC may wish to assign to me during a potential additional term.

#### *Biographical data*

Until my retirement in early 2007, I served in the Faculty of Science at the University of Cologne for 15 years, including several terms as Departmental Chair. I have acted as President of the *Association of Canadian Studies in German-Speaking Countries* (1995-1997) and Chair of Germany's *IGU National Committee* (2000-2004).

I completed my studies in Germany (Universities of Bonn and Saarbruecken) with a *Staatsexamen/State Examination* in Geography and Romance Languages in Saarbruecken in 1969. Furthermore, I was awarded a *B.A. (Honours)* in Geography, French and Ethnography (1966) as well as a *Fil.lic.* in Physical Geography (1971), followed by a doctorate in Geography (1974) at the University of Stockholm/Sweden. My second German academic thesis (*Habilitation*, 1981) was concerned with Environmental Economic Geography. Other current fields of interest are Political Geography and Industrial (Heritage) Tourism.

I have been a visiting professor at Université Laval/Canada (1990), Université de Paris X/France (2003) and Sun Yat-sen University/P.R. of China (2003, 2007 to present). I have been or continue to be a member of the Editorial Boards/Foreign Correspondents' Committees of several international geographical journals. I have also served in a variety of other international contexts, for instance as a member of the *International Evaluation Commission of Human Geography Undergraduate and Graduate Programmes at Swedish universities*, an activity formally completed by the Commission's final report published in 2006.



## **4) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

### **4.1) BORDERS III, TRIESTE 28-30 JUNE**

Under the auspices of the Commission of Political Geography of the International Geographical Union, in the historically famous Italian border town of Trieste, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the International Conference “Borderscapes” has taken place since 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

In that way, after the two previous editions – respectively in Trento (June 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2006), and in Trapani (September 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2009) –, political geographers from all over the world have taken once again the opportunity to meet each other for a very high level meeting and two interesting excursions.

In fact, in addition to the plenary and parallel sessions held in the “Advanced School of Modern Languages for Interpreters and Translators”, two trips have been accurately scheduled: one to the

border town of Gorizia/Nova Gorica on June 29<sup>th</sup> – led by Sergio Zilli and Francesco Micelli, of University of Trieste –, and a post Conference one to Sarajevo, from July 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> – led by Mladen Klemencic, of University of Zagreb, with the support of Tanja Sekulic, of University of Milano-Bicocca (see below).

A special focus on border towns and divided cities has been especially remarked by the Scientific Directors, Elena dell’Agnese, of University of Milano-Bicocca, and Sergio Zilli, leading them to choice as venue the city of Trieste, a border city since the foundation and with an experience as divided city after the 2nd World War.

Among other good reasons for the choice, Trieste has given the opportunity to arrange the very interesting and complete cartographical exhibition “Borders through time. A journey in the history of the Upper Adriatic with geographical maps (XVI<sup>th</sup>-XXI<sup>th</sup> century)”, organized by three geographers of the University of Trieste, Orietta Selva, Dragan Umek, and Sergio Zilli.

The participation to all these events has been completely successful. About one hundred geographers have taken part to the Conference, the majority of them from Italy (36 participants), immediately followed by USA (12), Poland (8), Spain (6), Finland (5), United Kingdom (4), and Hungary (3), but also from Russia, Israel, Thailand, Australia... for a total of 22 different countries. For the trip to Gorizia/Nova Gorica two full coaches have been necessary, and one for the five days in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Finally, the cartographic exhibition, open until July 22<sup>nd</sup>, has registered hundreds of visitors, and not only during the days of the Conference.



*Trieste, seen from Opicina: view of the harbour, with some Slovenja and Croatia in the background (photo G.Bellezza)*

This excellent success is of course the result of the Scientific Direction and all the Scientific Committee, but also of substantial and scientific helps: the Municipality and the Provincial Administration of Trieste, the Foundation CRTrieste, the shop Wind of Trieste, the Centre on the ethnics, the nationalisms and the collective identities “Etnicos”, and the Italian Program of research of national interest “Political imagination and borders of the Other. Passions of belongings and feeling of alienation”.

Referring to the official website (<http://www2.units.it/borderscapes3/index.html>) for all the details, as a sum the political geographers participating to the Conference have orientated their research in four principal directions.

The first has to do with border theories, and this has been the interest first of all of the keynote speakers: J. Agnew, G. Bellezza, L. Bialasiewicz, F. Farinelli, A. Gosar, H. van Houtum, V. Kolossov, V. Mamadouh, C. Minca, J. Minghi, D. Newman, J. O’Loughlin, and M. Shapiro.

The other participants, on their hand, have considered in their case-studies the analysis of the borderscape in three different ways: the borderscape as a “thing”, as a “symbol”, and as a “representation”.

In the first category we can consider the research about divided cities, flows and diasporas, post-conflict borders, socio-linguistic borders, EUropean and European limits; in the second, that having to do with heritage, architecture, identities; in the third, that referring to movie, literature, theatre, photo, cartography, and so on.



*Concluding Round Table: left to right: James Scott, Virginie Mamadouh, Henk van Houtum, Luiza Bialazewicz, David Newman, Giuliano Bellezza*

The wish now is that all these interesting pieces of research can be enjoyed as well by those who could not take part directly to the meetings – either because absolutely unable to participate to the Conference, or participating but tied-up in another parallel session – through the publication on monographic books, reviews or proceedings. And this before the fourth edition of the Conference, which is already in the mind of our indefatigable colleague Elena dell’Agnese.

*Lorenzo Bagnoli  
University of Milano-Bicocca*

### **Post Conference Excursion: Journey across all borders**

The five-days excursion across Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina was organized. as a part of the Borderscapes III international conference Altogether 35 participants from various

countries participated, including most prominent political geographers of present as well as young researchers. Excursion was realized as a true international collaborative effort: the itinerary was joint Italo-Slovene (Elena dell'Agnese and Anton Gosar) plan, the tour-operator was an agency based in Slovenia, but both the agency director and bus driver were in fact born in Bosnia-Herzegovina, while I, a Croatian political geographer, was honoured and pleased to provide expertly guidance and comments during the journey.



*The peaceful atmosphere of the Plitvice Lakes National Park, renowned for waterfalls*

Itinerary focused on major roads and main towns, which was particularly convenient for those who visited the area for the first time. We drove from Trieste diagonally through Slovenia along the motorway, with the stop and sight-seeing in the country's capital Ljubljana. In Croatia, we made just a coach tour through the capital and my hometown Zagreb, saving time for the visit to the Plitvice Lakes, major national park of the country. There, we walked along the Lower lakes and saw the main waterfall. Later, after returning to Croatia, we drove along superb Croatian highway A1 through karstic Dalmatian landscape, spent the night in the coastal town of Biograd, and even managed to enjoy swimming at pleasantly warm Adriatic sea around midnight. However, most of the time was spent in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We visited the important historical centres from the pre-Ottoman period (Bihać, Jajce, Ključ), temporary seat of the country in Ottoman times (Travnik), as well as internationally two best known towns, Mostar and Sarajevo. On the route we saw where Tito's Yugoslavia was proclaimed (Jajce), stopped at the battlefield from the WW II (Jablanica) and visited the first-class archeological museum at Franciscan monastery at Ljubuški in Herzegovina. The longest stop was made in Sarajevo, where the tour participants got to know about topography of the town, its architectural composition which comprises Oriental, Austro-Hungarian and post-WW II (socialistic) parts, and rich cultural inheritance of the four ethno-religious groups (Bosniak Muslim, Croat, Serb and Jewish). We saw sites where the WW I was triggered and where the first victims in 1992 fell.



*... not far from the impressive Open Air Museum in the severely damaged village of Turanj*

The tour was organized as a part of the meeting of the border scholars who always like to cross borders. Consequently, I focused my guidance on different boundaries on the route, international and internal, geographical and historical, visible and non-visible, with control and without it. We started the tour crossing former Iron Curtain (Italy-Yugoslavia boundary) line, continued by crossing the new international boundaries between three ex-Yugoslavia successor states, and ended by crossing internal division line within Bosnia-Herzegovina (officially Inter-Entity Boundary Line) as well as the border between two country's formative geographical and historical regions, Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also drove through areas populated by different ethnic communities, usually clearly marked with respective national symbols (flags and grafites), cemeteries as well as newly built or renovated religious objects.



*Poljen, surface feature of karst erosion, always wonderfully cultivated*

In many ways it was also a journey through history of the part of Europe which only in the 20th century was several times politically integrated (by Austria-Hungary and Yugoslavia) as well as

disintegrated (following both World Wars and after the break-up of Yugoslavia). We witnessed many traces of the recent war, particularly in Mostar and Sarajevo, and heard stories of various Bosnian communities which used to live side by side for centuries but also made life difficult each other in times of conflicts.



*And today cemetery are common feature on slopes near a polje, as well as in town centers*

In my comments during the journey I focused mainly on history and my own life's experiences from the early one-day shopping tours to Trieste, everyday life under the one-party communist rule, transition to democracy and turbulent times after which the former federal republics gained independence. I also tried to point out differences between Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which may not be visible to a foreigner. While visiting different sites or driving along them I pointed out their specific symbolic significance for insiders.



*Left, in Sarajevo a catholic cemetery under a highway and the memorial for recently killed Muslim; Right, in Mostar a space has been reserved to build a synagogue, but today not a single Jewish lives or want to come back here*

Being a guide was a new and challenging experience for me. The group I guided consisted of experts, and not of ordinary tourists, and I tried to respect that. Almost all of them were outsiders to the region, and for the most of them it was the first visit ever. As I understood it, my role was to provide an insider's view of sites and events. According to the post-excursion reactions

received from participants, it seems that we have managed to establish high degree of mutual understanding. It was by no means easy to keep control over often tight time-schedule, but I was fully supported by all, and we managed to fulfil planned itinerary. During the entire journey temperatures were high above the averages, but in the five days I did not hear a single person's complaint – perhaps that detail illustrates enthusiasm of all participants as well as friendly atmosphere created within our group.

*Mladen Klemencic, guide of the tour*

*Croatian political geographer, University of Zagreb*



*Optimistic end: new sources of energy are there and life will always continue, as here at the source of Bosna river (all photos by Giuliano Bellezza)*

#### **4.2) SYMPOSIUM ON “LANDSCAPES, PERCEPTION, KNOWLEDGE, AWARENESS AND ACTION”, BUCHAREST, 11-13 MAY**

The Fourth International Symposium of Geography "Landscapes: Perception, Knowledge, Awareness and Action", organized by the Faculty of Geography of the "Spiru Haret" University took place between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012, in Bucharest and Sarata-Monteoru (Buzau County). This time, participants were only from nine foreign countries (Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Spain, Ukraine), to which added those from Romania.



*Left, Prof. Gheorghe HERISANU, Dean of Faculty of Geography, speaks at the Opening ceremony.*

*Right, field trip to the mud volcanoes*

The total number of participants was 144: 43 of them came from abroad (including 2 Master Degree students) and 87 from Romania (out of which 14 were students and Master Degree students). Total number of presented communications was 85, out of which 12 posters presented by students and Master Degree students.

Field applications were offered every day, which allowed participants to interact directly on the ground and better know the diversity of landscapes in Romania.

*Assoc. Prof. Madalina-Teodora ANDREI, PhD  
President of the Organizing Committee  
Faculty of Geography, "Spiru Haret" University*



## **5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2012)*

**5.1) XV INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS, PRAGUE , 6-10 AUGUST**

**5.2) RURAL WOMEN, OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS, CHALLENGES, BERNE, 20-22 AUGUST**

**5.3) GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM, 22-25 AUGUST, BEFORE IGU CONGRESS**

**5.4) IGU COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHY OF GOVERNANCE, SESSIONS IN THE IGU 2012 KOELN CONGRESS**

**5.5) INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, DRESDEN 25-30 AUGUST**

**5.6) IGU INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, COLOGNE, 26-30 AUGUST**

**5.7) DESIGN & DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING, 26-28 AUGUST**

**5.8) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIVING WITH DIFFERENCE, LEEDS 12-13 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**5.9) FLEUVES ET TERRITOIRES (RIVERS AND AREAS), MACON (FRANCE), 13-14 SEPTEMBRE 2012**

**5.10) ENLIGHTENING TOURISM, NAPLES, 14-15 SEPTEMBER**

