



IGU Commission (C12.15) on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change

REPORT 2012-2013

1. MISSION

The Commission's specific objective is to examine the geographical nature of tourism, leisure and global change. Tourism and leisure are seen as deeply geographical phenomena that do not happen in a socio-spatial vacuum. They are understood as social and cultural activities occurring in space and time. Therefore, tourism and leisure are placed within wider societal contexts and human mobilities at local, regional, national and global scales. The current processes of globalization or global change in tourism and leisure geographies affecting communities and environments in different places are not seen as one dimensional but as interactional; globalisation and related mobilities in tourism and leisure are also mediated by local and regional factors creating unique outcomes in different places.

The overall objectives of the Commission will be pursued over the life of the Commission through a set of *research tasks* that will be defined through discussions with members and modified as appropriate during the Commission meetings.

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.A. Commission Steering Committee members

The current Commission Steering Committee members are listed in below. The committee contains 6 women and 5 men and has representatives from Europe, Africa, North America and Asia. Moreover, it covers major language groups.

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2.B. Commission Members

Since 2008 the Commission member directory has been based on the Commission IGUST -listserv: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/TourismGeography/>. The listserv has over 600 members. The listserv information does not support country based member listing as it is based on members' names and email addresses only. In 2013 a manual inventory was made allowing to identify 631 individual addresses, of which 526 could be related to 67 countries. The membership table below combines this inventory with the previous membership register.

Number of Corresponding Members in 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2013:

	1997	1999	2004	2005	2007	2013
Argentina	2	3	8	9	10	6
Australia	10	22	31	33	34	33
Austria	8	7	7	7	7	8

Azerbaijan	-	-	1	1	1	-
Bangladesh	1	1	2	2	2	1
Barbados	-	-	2	2	2	1
Belgium	5	6	8	8	8	3
Bolivia	-	-	-	1	1	1
Botswana	-	-	-	-	1	-
Brazil	1	1	6	6	8	7
Bulgaria	2	2	2	2	2	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cameroon	-	-	-	1	1	-
Canada	36	37	42	46	57	27
China	-	3	8	10	14	17
Costa Rica	-	1	1	1	1	1
Croatia	1	1	2	3	3	2
Cuba	-	1	1	1	1	-
Cyprus	-	-	1	1	1	-
Czechia	3	3	5	6	6	2
Denmark	-	1	1	1	2	2
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	1
Egypt	-	-	1	1	1	-
Finland	2	4	6	6	6	9
France	23	25	33	33	33	17
Germany	27	25	30	32	32	23
Ghana	-	-	-	1	1	2
Greece	1	1	2	3	3	3
Guatemala	-	-	1	1	1	-
Guyana	-	-	-	1	1	-
Honduras	-	-	-	1	1	-
Hong Kong SAR	-	1	3	3	5	-*
Hungary	4	4	3	3	3	3
Iceland	1	2	3	3	3	4
India	1	4	9	12	13	21
Indonesia	-	-	3	3	3	3
Iran	-	-	3	2	2	2
Ireland	5	3	5	5	6	5
Israel	2	3	5	7	7	6
Italy	6	8	11	13	14	22
Japan	2	2	5	5	5	10
Jordan	-	-	1	1	1	1
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kenya	-	-	-	4	4	-
Korea (South)	2	3	3	3	3	5
Laos	-	-	-	-	-	1
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lithuania	-	-	1	1	1	-
Luxembourg	-	-	1	1	1	-
Malaysia	-	-	3	3	3	3
Maldives	-	-	1	1	1	1
Martinique	-	-	1	1	1	-
Mexico	2	2	5	5	5	7
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	1	1
Morocco	1	1	4	4	4	-
Namibia	-	-	1	1	1	2
Nepal	-	6	7	7	8	3
Netherlands	5	6	7	7	7	5
New Zealand	3	9	18	21	21	23

Nicaragua	-	-	2	2	2	-
Nigeria	1	1	3	3	3	-
Norway	4	4	6	6	6	3
Pakistan	-	-	-	-	-	1
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	1	1	1
Peru	-	-	1	1	1	2
Philippines	-	-	-	-	1	1
Poland	6	6	6	6	6	3
Portugal	2	4	11	13	13	15
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	1
Romania	-	-	-	4	4	7
Russia	2	2	2	2	2	-
Samoa	1	1	1	1	1	-
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	3	3	2
Serbia	-	-	-	-	1	2
Singapore	1	5	6	7	7	5
Slovenia	2	2	3	4	4	2
South Africa	5	7	13	14	16	13
Spain	4	8	14	16	16	12
Suriname	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sweden	6	7	14	14	15	16
Switzerland	4	5	7	7	7	6
Taiwan ROC	-	1	1	1	1	5
Tanzania	-	-	-	-	-	3
Thailand	-	2	4	4	4	2
Trinidad	-	-	1	1	1	-
Turkey	2	2	7	9	11	6
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	2
United Arab Em.	-	-	1	1	1	1
United Kingdom	11	11	39	47	50	50
United States	37	41	75	84	89	69
Vietnam	-	-	1	2	3	-
Yemen	-	-	-	-	1	-
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	1	1	-
<i>Unknown</i>	-	-	-	-	-	<i>106</i>
Total:	246	308	525	604	637	631

* For 2013 Hongkong is included in China

2. MEETINGS IN 2013

2.A. *Commission Meetings*

During 2012 and 2013 the Commission has organized, sponsored or co-sponsored 7 meetings. Details of major meetings are outlined below.

2012

- 1 Sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, 24-28 February, New York, NY, USA (ca 40 participants)
- *Sustainable Tourism in Urban Environments*, 20-22 April 2012, Hong Kong

- Tourism Commission Pre-Congress Meeting, 22-25 August 2012, Trier/Mosel, Germany (ca 40 participants)
- International Geographical Union Congress, 12 Tourism Commission Sessions, 26-30 August 2012, Köln, Germany (ca 80 participants)

2013

- 1 Sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, 9-13 April 2013, Los Angeles, USA (ca 40 participants)
- *Coastal, Island and Tropical Tourism*, 16-18 April 2013, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (ca 200 participants)
- *Sustainable Tourism in Urban Environments*, 20-22 April 2013, Hong Kong (ca 50 participants)
- 2 sessions on *Tourism for Peripheries?* at the 5th Nordic Geographers Meeting, 11–14 June 2013, Reykjavík, Iceland
- IGU Tourism Commission Pre-Conference *Tourism between Tradition and Modernity*, 28 July-3 Aug 2013, Beppu, Japan (35 participants)
- 13 sessions at the IGU Regional Conference, 4-9 August 2013, Kyoto, Japan (ca 80 participants)
- *Peripheral Landscapes and Frontiers in Tourism Research*, 20-22 September 2013, Kanas N.P., Xinjiang, China (ca 100 participants)

2.B. A Brief Summary

A brief summary of the questions addressed at each meeting:

The objectives of the commission have not changed since the establishment of the new commission in 2012. In accordance a set of *research 'tasks'* that were been defined through discussion with Commission members and modified as appropriate during the Commission meetings are the following;

- Task 1 Interpreting the meaning of 'sustainability' within the context of tourism, leisure and global change;
- Task 2 The operation and regulation of tourism and leisure in a 'borderless world'
- Task 3 The relationship of tourism and leisure to issues of time-space convergence;
- Task 4 Tourism and leisure in the interaction between natural, rural and urban systems;
- Task 5 The inter-relationship of tourism and leisure with place, identity and citizenship within the context of global change;
- Task 6 The dynamics and capacities of communities and institutions in order to effectively contribute and respond to global change; and
- Task 7 Contributing to relevant international research programmes associated with the aims and objectives of the Commission
- Task 8 Examination of tourism's relationships to global environmental change
- Task 9 In relation to task 8 specific examination of tourism's relationships with global climate change.

These tasks are discussed and examined during the whole Commission time span. The table below outlines the comparative international studies that have been undertaken through the various meeting activities outlined above in relation to the goals and objectives of the Commission. The table indicates the extent to which the Commission has embraced particular tasks (T1–T9) through its various meetings as well as ensuring that specific research outputs such as proceedings and other publications have been tied to the Commission's objectives and goals.

Meetings 2011–2013							
	FWI	Chi1	Chi2	Trier	Col.	Bep.	Kyot
	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2013	2013
T1							
T2							
T3							
T4							
T5							
T6							
T7							
T8							
T9							

The main general outcomes from the meetings in 2013 are not least related to the heritage – development nexus. It has been shown that geographical context affects the outcomes of attempts to develop tourism. Here not least the increasingly global characteristics of tourism imply challenges to local stakeholders involved in destination development and management. This requires mutual global cultural understanding and sensitivity not least since many places show multiple layers of meaning to different stakeholders. The outcomes of the conferences also underline the continuing need to improve the understanding of impacts (benefits and costs) of tourism in a local-global nexus. Moreover, an improved understanding of the institutional preconditions in different places is necessary in order to achieve a sound comparison of development. Here a greater integration with other fields of geography certainly promises new avenues for research. This is also necessary in order to contribute to sustainable development where touristic mobility increasingly seems to become an important challenge and opportunity.

During the commission activities the high number of young presenters was a positive injection. This will be followed up at the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow, where a panel session on publishing tourism geographies will be held particularly targeting young scholars.

2.C. Commission Meetings after 2013

The Commission plans to organize, sponsor or co-sponsor the following meetings during 2013;

- Recreation, Tourism & Sport Specialty Group Sessions, AAG Annual Meeting, 8-12 April 2014, Tampa, Florida, USA
- 3rd *Sustainable Tourism in Urban Environments* Conference, 23-25 April 2014, Hong Kong
- *New Perspectives on Second Homes*, 9-11 June 2014, Stockholm, Sweden
- 7th Tourism Outlook and 3rd Tropical Coastal and Island Tourism Conferences - *Nature, Culture and Networking for Sustainable Tourism*, 6-9 August (tentative) 2014, Sri Lanka
- IGU Tourism Commission Pre-Conference, *Tourism and Transition in a Time of Change*, 13-17 August 2014, Kraków / Pieniny Mts, Poland
- 12 sessions at the IGU Regional Conference, *Changes, Challenges, Responsibility*, 18-22 August 2014, Krakow, Poland

Sessions to be proposed for the IGU Krakow

1. Tourism, sustainability and global change
2. Tourism and regional development
3. Urban tourism geographies
4. Geographies of heritage and cultural tourism
5. Changing Dynamics of Tourism in Central Europe
6. Tourism in mountain areas
7. Panel Session: Publishing tourism geographies

Joint sessions

8. Tourism and borders (Commission Political Geography)
9. Tourism, dark heritage and war (Commission Political Geography)
10. Gender and tourism (Commission Gender and Geography)
11. Tourism and marginality – local initiatives shaped by global trends (Commission Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses)
12. Mega-events (Commission on Global Information Society)

Moreover, the Commission aims at organizing sessions and pre-meetings at the upcoming IGU regional conferences and congresses.

3. NETWORKING

The Commission has organized several international conferences jointly with other academic organizations such as the AAG, Recreation, Tourism and Sport Specialty Group, the Nordic Geographers Meeting, the Association of Japanese Geographers Study Group on Tourism and Leisure and the Japanese Society for Geographical Sciences Tourism Working Group as well as other local organizers.

During the IGU Regional Conference 2014 sessions are co-organized together with the Commissions Gender and Geography, Political Geography and Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses.

4. PUBLICATIONS

During 2013 the Commission published 2 newsletters. In addition to the various meetings the Commission has also contributed to the research programmes or projects related to second home tourism, tourism and climate change and tourism and local/regional development. There are also several journal theme issues based on the Commission meetings and activities. The directly commission related publications include:

Kagermeier, A. (Ed.) (2012). *Transforming and Managing Destinations: Tourism and Leisure in a Time of Global Change and Risks*. Studien zur Freizeit- und Tourismusforschung 7. Mannheim : Verl. MetaGIS-Systems. ISBN 978-3-936438-41-3.

Visser, G. & S. Ferreira (Eds) (2013) *Tourism and Crisis*. London: Routledge.

Publications in process:

Funck, C. & D.K. Müller (Guest Eds) (2014). Current issues in tourism in Japan and China. *Asia Pacific World* (special issue).

2 issues of *Tourism, Leisure and Global Change* (see below)

The journal *Tourism Geographies* was developed based on the IGU commission collaboration and the commission has a representative position in the editorial board. The members of the commission are also involved with several journals and book series, including the mentioned *Tourism Geographies* (EIC Prof. A. Lew), *Current Issues in Tourism* (EIC Prof. C. M. Hall), *Journal of Ecotourism* (AE, Prof. J. Saarinen) and *Heritage Tourism* (EIC, Prof. D Timothy), for example, which provides good possibilities for the theme issues and collaboration also in future.

In cooperation with Prof Dr Lawal Marafa, The Chinese University of Hongkong, Department of Geography and Resource Management, the Commission plans to launch a new online publication series with the preliminary title *Tourism, Leisure and Global Change* in 2014. The goals of the publication is to serve as a Proceedings publication and to publish papers and abstracts for all IGU Tourism Commission sponsored meetings, including both IGU regional meetings and other meetings that list the IGU Tourism Commission as a co-sponsor.

The Commission website URL: <http://www.igutourism.com>

The Commission listserv URL: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/TourismGeography/>

Both website and listserv are managed by Professor Alan Lew (email. alan.lew@nau.edu).

5. ARCHIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Commission's newsletters and the program for the IGU Pre conference meeting in Japan have been forwarded to the IGU-archives.

Umeå, Sweden, 10 December 2013

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