

C12.33 Commission on Political Geography, Annual Report

2012-2013

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**The Commission encourages the active participation of young researchers.
For this reason, a board of young researchers and student members has been established.
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(ie. subscribers to mailing list and/or facebook page of the Commission)

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<i>Poland</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>USA</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Finland</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Switzerland</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Japan</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Spain</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Israel</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Hungary</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>India</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Russia</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>The Netherlands</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Argentina</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Romania</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Tunisia</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Turkey</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Croatia</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Iran</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Lebanon</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Norway</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Singapore</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>South Africa</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>South Korea</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Sweden</i>	<i>1</i>

B. Meetings

a. Meetings organised, co-organised and sponsored by the commission

1. Organised conference “Borderscapes III”, Trieste, Italy, 28-30 June 2012, 120 participants, and post-conference fieldtrip to Sarajevo, 30 participants
2. Organised IGU Pre-Conference: Spatialising The (Geo)Political: Political Geography And Critical Geopolitics, Frankfurt Am Main, Germany, 24-25 August 2012, 40 participants
3. Activities at the IGC 2012, Cologne, Germany, August 2012, seven sessions, 80-100 participants
4. Co-sponsored Conference “The 13th International ‘Lodz’ Conference On Political Geography On The Eastern Dimension of The European Union”, 12-14 September 2012, 51 participants
5. Co-sponsored conference “BRIT XII – Border Regions In Transition: Borderland Voices – Shaping A New World Order”, Fukuoka, Japan -Pusan, Korea, 13–16 November 2012, 300 participants
6. AAG Annual meeting, “Author meets critics” sponsored session, Los Angeles, US, 9-23 April 2013, 40 participants
7. Commission on Political Geography Sponsored Seminar, The Border Crossing Seminar, Second Edition, Milan, Italy, 10-15 June 2013, 20 participants
8. Co-sponsored conference “Mapping Conceptual Change in Thinking European Borders”, Bergamo, Italy, 3-5 July 2013, 134 participants
9. Activities at the 2013 IGU Regional Conference, Kyoto, Japan, 4-9 August, 2013, 12 sessions, 60 participants
10. Commission post conference fieldtrip to Okinawa, Japan, 12-13 August 2013, 21 participants
11. Organized conference “Geopolitics Towards the Future”, Rome, Italy, 2-4 September 2013, , 80 participants
12. IGU Co-sponsored conference “IV EUGEO”, 4-7 September, Rome, 400 participants; one IGU Commission on Political Geography co-sponsored session, about 20 participants

b. A brief summary of the topics addressed at each meeting

BORDERSCAPES III, Trieste 28-30 June 2012

From the 27th and the 30th of June 2012, the third edition of the International seminar

Borderscapes was held in Trieste, under the scientific direction of Elena dell’Agnese and Sergio Zilli. The seminar, organized as one of the activities of the Commission was attended by more than one hundred scholars, mainly political geographers but also people with a multidisciplinary background and a shared interest in border landscapes. Indeed, this perspective has been the focal point of the different sessions of the seminar, articulated both around the general idea of borders as a relevant factor in local territorial transformations, and of borders as an object of popular culture and artistic representations. While the first edition of the Seminar, held in Trento 2006, had as a special interest in the myth of the “natural boundaries”, and the second one, held in Trapani 2009, had maritime boundaries as its main centre of attention, the third edition of Borderscapes, given the place of the venue, had a special focus on divided cities. For this reason, an intra- conference excursion to the cities of Gorizia and Nova Gorica was organised. Given the attention reserved to the general concept of landscape, a large amount of the discussion in Borderscapes 3 was specially focused on visual aspects and analysis. For this reason, jointly with the conference, a cartographic exhibition was organised, open not only to the conference participants but also to the citizens of Trieste (organizers: Orietta Selva, Dragan Umek and Sergio Zilli). A five days post conference excursion from Trieste (Italy) to Ljubljana (Slovenia) – Zagreb (Croatia) – Plitvice Lakes – Bihač (Bosnia and Herzegovina) – Jajce – Travnik – Sarajevo – Mostar – Biograd (Croatia) – Trieste (Italy), organised by Anton Gosar and Elena dell’Agnese, and led by Mladen Klemenčić and Tanja Sekulić, helped a group of more than 30 participants to taste, on field, the “borderscape” experience.

IGU Pre-Conference: Spatialising The (Geo)Political: Political Geography and Critical Geopolitics, Frankfurt am Main, 24/25 August 2012

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

Activities of the IGU Commission on Political Geography at the IGC 2012 in Cologne, Germany

The IGU Commission on Political Geography had a highly successful scientific exchange at the IGC in Cologne. It organized 7 sessions, which were very well attended. The papers presented lead to lively and vibrant discussions over a wide range of topics and research fields of Political Geography representing both ongoing theoretical debates as well as empirical case studies.

Session 1 on “Environmental Geopolitics and Climate Change” (Chair: Jürgen Oßenbrügge,

Hamburg). The presented papers discussed a range of topics like the imaginative geographies of climate wars (Benedikt Korf, Zurich), geoengineering as techno-political assemblage (Thilo Wiertz, Heidelberg) and the role of environmental dystopias in the field of popular geopolitics (Elena dell'Agnese, Milano).

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

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

Session 4 on "The (Geo-)Politics of Identity" (Chair: Anton Gosar, Primorska) brought together case studies from very different geographic scales. The issues in the papers ranged from symbolic and iconic representations in the construction of national identity in Turkmenistan (Hendrik Meurs, Heidelberg) and multiconfessional identities in Albania (Peter Jordan, Austria), both on the level of nation-states, to more specific issues like the mapping of neoliberal Bavarian regional identities (Gregor Glötzl and Holger Lehmeier, Bamberg) and the critical geopolitics of global management gurus (Sami Moisió, Oulu).

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

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

Session 7 was dedicated to a set of case studies in Political Geography which used quantitative methods for their approaches and field work (Chair: Anton Gosar, Primorska). Vladimir Kolosov (Moscow) presented critical and functional approaches in geopolitics using the example of geopolitical visions of the world. A case study from the Pusztá region showed how gerrymandering can be a strategic tool of power politics (Zoltán Kovács, Szeged). For the Czech Republic, Tomáš Kostecký (Czech Academy of Sciences) presented an analysis of the historical roots of contemporary voting patterns in the Czech Republic. From the perspective

of international relations Andrii Fedchuk (Kiev) outlined lessons learned from the Antarctic Treaty System against the background of a semi- centennial Antarctic governance.

The 13th International 'Lodz' Conference on Political Geography, on The Eastern Dimension of the European Union, 12-14 September 2012

The 13th International 'Lodz' Conference on Political Geography on The Eastern Dimension of the European Union was held in Chelm (Poland) and Lutsk (Ukraine) at September 12–14, 2012. The organizers were: Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies University of Lodz, Silesian Institute in Opole, Polish Geographical Society Branch of Lodz, The State School of Higher Education in Chełm and Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University in Lutsk (Ukraine). The conference was held under patronage of International Geographical Union Commission of Political Geography. 51 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine and USA, presented 25 papers in 6 sessions.

The substantive aim of the conference was a discussion over the issue concerning the eastern dimension of the United Europe. Most of all the following problems were raised: Eastern politics of the European Union, Historical dimension of the East-West relations in Europe, Relation between EU member-countries and East European Region Economical conditions of the East-West relations in Europe, European integration processes from the Ukrainian perspective, national and religious diversification and EU-EE relations.

BRIT XII, Fukuoka, Japan-Busan, Korea - Borderland Voices: Shaping A New World Order, 13–16 November 2012

For the first time the Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) meeting took place in the Far East. In Fukuoka, Japan and Pusan, Korea 48 countries have been represented by close to 300 scholars. Both conference venues would not be hosting such a number of outstanding professionals if border issues in the Western Pacific would not have become centre stage news of the world media. The conference opening discussion was introduced by Tony Payan (University of Texas, El Paso) who acted as moderator to a group of experts from the Queens University Belfast (Liam O'Dowd), the French Institute for Higher National Defense Studies, France (Michel Foucher), University of Eastern Finland (James W. Scott), Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Science (Vladimir Kolosov), University of Texas, El Paso (Kathleen Staudt) and Kyushu University (Yuzu Yabuno). The afternoon was devoted to parallel sessions on several to border issues related topics and to a special event for the Fukuoka citizens introducing the formation of the Fukuoka-Busan supra-regional economic zone. Sessions continued to be arranged on the second day of the conference in Fukuoka. Parallel sessions continued to be organized at the Dongseo University venue in Pusan as the focus there shifted to large extend to the issues of the divided Korean peninsula: 13 sessions took place and 41 papers have been presented.

2013 Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers AAG, Los Angeles 9-23 April 2013

In April 2013 seven thousands of geographers from around the world convened as each year in Spring for the Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). Many of the hundreds of sessions were sponsored by the AAG Political Geography Specialty Group (PGSG) and political geographers from all over the world also attended the pre-conference organized at UCLA by the PGSG on April 8. The IGU Commission on Political Geography sponsored a well-attended Authors-meet-critics session together with PGSG (Session 4628).

The book under debate was the political geography textbook *Making Political Geography* (2012 Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield). The two authors John Agnew and Luca Muscarà responded to comments by Elena dell'Agnese, Takashi Yamazaki, Colin Flint, Natalie Koch and Virginie Mamadouh. The members of the board and the young members of the IGU-CPG present in Los Angeles also hold an informal meeting, off the AAG Annual meeting.

The second edition of the Border Crossing Seminar, Milan, 10-15 June 2013

The Border Crossing Seminar is a joint program between the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) and the University of Notre Dame (USA), sponsored by the U.S. - Italy Fulbright Commission, and by the IGU Commission on Political Geography and supported by: University of Cork (Ireland), University Justus Liebig University Giessen (Germany), University of Łódź (Poland), University of Rzeszów (Poland), Vassar College (USA), Fondazione per la Cittadinanza Attiva (Rome), Bruno Kessler Foundation (Trento). The co-organizers are Marina Calloni (social and political philosophy, University of Milano-Bicocca) and Eileen Hunt Botting (political theory, University of Notre Dame).

The theme of the June 2013 seminar, second meeting of "The Border Crossing Seminar", was "From the Polis to the City: Perspectives on Global Justice." " The seminar examined the evolution of the city within European and non-European political theory and practice, from the polis of the ancient Greeks, to the cosmopolis of contemporary theories of global justice, to the present diversity of the city of Milan. The school featured lectures by expert faculty from the University of Notre Dame, the University of Milano-Bicocca, and other universities from around the globe, in fields such as political theory, political philosophy, anthropology, sociology, political science, and geography.

Border Studies conference on "Mapping Conceptual Change in Thinking European Borders", Bergamo, Italy, 3-5 July 2013

The first joint Border Studies conference of the EU-FP7 projects EUBORDERSCAPES and EUBORDERREGIONS on "Mapping Conceptual Change in Thinking European Borders", organized in Bergamo, Italy, in early July 2013 did not only present on-going research activities within these two large-scale international projects to the wider public, but engaged also a numerous scholars external to the projects in dialogue and in this way contributing to the development of conceptual, methodological and empirical research on borders and border crossings. Organized by the University of Eastern Finland, in close cooperation with Ce.R.Co. – Centro di Ricerca sulla Complessità at the University of Bergamo, the conference aimed to make a constructive contribution to debate within border studies by encouraging a processual reading of borders as well as showcasing border research as an interdisciplinary field with its own academic standing. The conference employed also the concept of borderscapes as a way of approaching bordering processes in specific geographical and social contexts, both in borderlands but also wherever a specific border has impacts, is represented, negotiated or displaced

Whether it was the topic at hand, or the exceptionally beautiful location in Bergamo, the organizers were faced with a flood of paper proposals, the number, which eventually had to be limited due to the size of the conference venue. In addition to the actual conference, an internal project workshop as well as an open summer school was organized. The conference was kicked off with a get-together event that took place at GAMEC – Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, where participants got to enjoy a travelling exhibition "The Memory of the Sea. Objects Migrating within the Mediterranean". This was then followed by a screening of "Mare Chiuso/Closed Sea" (2012), a touching film by Stefano Liberti & Andrea Segre.

The next day, following the opening words by Stefano Paleari, the Rector of the University of Bergamo and the conference organizers, the floor was given to Elena dell'Agnese, who

delivered the eye-opening first keynote on “New Geo-graphies of Border Landscapes”. As the second keynote, Henk van Houtum, pushed the borders of cartography even further in his ever so enthusiastic trajectory “Towards a Cartography of Borderscapes”. These though provoking lectures paved the road for 22 parallel sessions focusing, inter alia, on:

- Post-soviet borders and conceptual change
- Borders, intersectionality and the everyday
- Borders and critical geopolitics of neighbourhood
- The state of the debate in border studies: theories and methods
- Europeanisation: European integration and conceptual change
- Post-colonial bordering and Euro-African borderscapes
- Border-crossing and cultural production
- Cross-border cooperation and regionalisation processes
- Rebordering state spaces: cities, borders and integration processes
- Policies and practices of cross-border cooperation
- Post-conflict borders and the emergence of new borderscapes

In all, the presented papers clearly showcased that concept of the border has indeed undergone significant changes during the last decades. After the somewhat premature attempt to “think away” political borders in the early 1990s, contemporary approaches solemnly acknowledge the continued relevance of borders for politics and everyday life. The conference uncovered important connections between borders as a “challenge” to national (and EU) policies and borders as potential elements of political innovation through conceptual (re-)framings of social, political, economic and cultural spaces. As a number of papers indicated, this requires a nuanced and critical re-reading and understanding of borders as resources in terms of the exercise of power, the management of conflict, cross-border cooperation, and the everyday negotiation of borders by “ordinary” citizens and non-citizens. The presented papers will be developed into an edited volume as well as a journal special issue in order to disseminate the findings more broadly. A number of working papers will also be uploaded in the project’ webpages.

Activities at the 2013 IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, IN KYOTO

The IGU Kyoto Regional Conference (KRC) was held in the Kyoto International Conference Center, Kyoto, Japan from August 4th to 9th, 2013. Although categorized as ‘regional,’ it attracted more than 1,400 participants from about 70 countries. CPG, as usual, was one of the Commissions that organized a large number of paper sessions in KRC (twelve sessions and one business meeting):

New frontiers in border studies (1) (Chair: Anton Gosar)

New frontiers in border studies (2) (Chair: Virginie Mamadouh)

Political rhetoric, media representation and popular culture in the making of state power (Chair: Anton Gosar)

Migrations, ethnic minorities and the spatial reconceptualization of citizenship (1) (Chair: Shinya Kitagawa)

Migrations, ethnic minorities and the spatial reconceptualization of citizenship (2) (Chair: Elena dell’Agnese)

Localizing social movements and environmental questions in a globalizing world (1) (Chair: Elena dell’Agnese)

Localizing social movements and environmental questions in a globalizing world (2) (Chair: Yuichi Kagawa)

Militarization and de-militarization from a comparative perspective (1): Security and subject (Chair: Takashi Yamazaki)

Militarization and de-militarization from a comparative perspective (2): Okinawa and its re-/de-militarization (Chair: Colin Flint)

Contemporary political geography and geopolitics in Asia (1): Dynamics in East Asia (Chair: Takashi Yamazaki)

Contemporary political geography and geopolitics in Asia (2): International tensions and cooperations (Chair: Sang-Hyun Chi)

Re-theorizing territory, sovereignty, and space (Chair: Akihiko Takagi)

The Political Geography sessions involved scholars from all over the globe including Japan, Poland, the Netherlands, India, Hungary, South Korea, Italy, Finland, Russia, South Africa, the Ukraine, Great Britain, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States. Most interesting were the collaborations and counter-perspectives on the topics of borders and borderlands.

Particularly pleasing was the continuation of political geography's ability to seamlessly accommodate graduate students and established scholars in the same sessions.

Post conference fieldtrip to Okinawa, 10-12 August 2013

The theme of the trip was "Militarization and demilitarization of Okinawa as a geostrategic "keystone" under the Japan-U.S. alliance" and co-organized by the Political Geography Research Group of the Human Geographical Society of Japan and the Okinawa Geographical Society. The planning of the trip was supported by the General Affairs Department of Okinawa City Government and other local officials. Part of the trip expense was covered by the research grant from the Osaka City University Research Center for Human Rights. The trip began with visits to the controversial US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and the huge US Kadena Air Base and stayed for two nights in the typical 'base town' of Koza. The trip ended with a visit to US Marine Corps Camp Hansen in which a military helicopter crashed just a week before the trip began. By listening to both Okinawan and American voices at each site, the participants were able to comprehend the complexity, profoundness, and prospects of issues on the militarized island.

Geopolitics Towards the Future, Rome, September 2013

The Conference was organized by prof. Paola Pagnini, Dean at the University Niccolò Cusano, and Anton Gosar, former Chair of our Commission. It lasted three full days. It was mainly focused on the new scenarios and new problems of the incoming future, investigated with a geopolitical, geo-economical and mainly interdisciplinary approach. Geopolitical scenarios, both dynamic and complex, in Europe, Africa, Asia and America, have been the topics of the many sessions and round tables. A special session, focused on "Global Integration and Networks", was devoted to the Adriatic Forum 2013. The Forum included a discussion about the future perspectives of the Port of Trieste. In the final day, a concluding round table "Geopolitics Towards the Future" was chaired by Lucio Caracciolo, Director of Limes, the most prominent Italian journal of geopolitics. The conference was enriched by the presence of scholars, PhD students and many exponents of the diplomatic and political world, whose different perspectives enriched the discussion in a very stimulating way.

IV EUGEO Conference, Rome, 4-7 September 2013

The conference, co-sponsored by all the four Italian geograohical associations and also by IGU, was opened by a lecture from Vladimir Kolossov, IGU President, on "Sovereignty, 'Stateness' and Contested Borders in the Contemporary Geopolitical Context". Many sessions on political gegraphy themes were offered. The session officially co-sponsored by the Commission on Political Geography, "New geo-geographies of exile. Displacements, re-placements and literary reconstructions of belonging", was organized by Elena dell'Agnese and by Michael Shapiro.

c. Future events (more detailed information about future events can be found on the IGU CPG website)

Political Geography of the Environment conference in Eugene, Oregon, June 19-21, 2014 (Conference website: geography.uoregon.edu/pge)

The meeting will consist of two days of sessions, followed by an optional day-long field trip to the Oregon coast on June 21. One of the clearest obstacles to the effort to confront environmental problems is the fragmentation of the planet into political spaces, few of which are meaningful ecological units. The issue is not just that ecological and political boundaries do not coincide; the very roles that territorial states play in the international state system and the world economy frequently work against collective action in the interests of the environment. Building on a tradition of examining the relationship between spaces of governance and environmental geographies, this conference will explore the role political geographic arrangements and understandings play in the effort to address the myriad environmental challenges of our time. Contributions are welcome addressing such issues as:

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

Confirmed keynote speakers for the conference include Simon Dalby and Shannon O'Lear.

14th International 'Lodz' Political Geography Conference / Pre-conference of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (CPG), Lopuszna, Poland, August 15-17, 2014 (main contact: Prof. Marek Sobczykński – University of Lodz & Commission on Political and Historical Geography Polish Geographical Society, marsob@geo.uni.lodz.pl, see also the Facebook page of the conference <https://www.facebook.com/events/456204004495295/?fref=ts>)

The subject of the conference is: **Geographical-political aspects of the transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage**

The conference organizers intend to discuss the following issues:

- integration vs. peripherality – changes in border regions;
- contemporary changes in border regions – new challenges for political geography;
- geopolitics of borders and borderlands in globalised World;
- the role of Euroregions in the transborder heritage conservation;
- transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage between the EU member and not-member countries;

- contemporary practice in the field of the conservation of natural and cultural heritage all over the World.

Activities at the IGU Regional Conference, Krakow, 18-24 August 2014 (conference website: <http://www.igu2014.org>)

Sessions proposed by C12.33 Commission on Political Geography

- Contemporary conflicts and new/old forms of belligerence
- Globalization, sharing/gift economies, and contested everyday futures
- Political geographies of multilingualism
- European integration, conflict resolutions and persisting divides
- Here, there, everywhere: social movements spatializing dissent
- Concepts of power and space in 'post political' approaches
- The political geographies of 'post-growth' discourses
- The politics of the commodification of nature

Joint Sessions

- C12.10 Gender and Geography /C12.33 Political Geography
- Climate change, environmental discourse and gender
- Gender, human rights and citizenship

C12.15 Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change / C12.33 Political Geography

- Tourism and political borders
- Dark Tourism, Heritage and War

C12.20 History of Geography / C12.33 Political Geography

- What (political) geography ought to be? Theoretical approaches to and historical perspectives on geography and geopolitics as instruments of peace

C12.33 Political Geography / C12.39 Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World

- Beyond global cities' system: cities as geopolitical actors in the complex world

East-West Borderscapes: Imprints Of World Wars On European Border Landscapes (October 2 – 5, 2014), Trieste-Koper (main contact: anton.gosar@guest.arnes.si)

Building on a tradition, the conference organisers are looking forward to examine the relationship between spaces of governance in places where substantial change has taken place (as the result of the winning powers). This conference will explore how have political geographic arrangements and understandings left imprints on past, present and on future borderscapes. It will in particular identify major imprints which are to be experienced in the border areas:

- Imprints of Empires
- Imprints of nationalism
- Imprints of socialism
- Imprints of neo-liberalism (globalisation).

The discussion will take into consideration the reality of the Alps-Adriatic region where the

battle of Caporetto (Kobarid) became synonymous for a total defeat of a nation (for a short while). Other similar topics and, in particular cross-cultural comparisons of imprints left in border spaces by war and post-WW arrangements are welcome. The meeting will consist of sessions and two days of excursion (including field-work related sessions). The conference locations are Trieste and Koper; excursions will take the conference participants to the battle fields of WW1, around Kobarid/Bovec and to other places where imprints of the 20th century World Wars have left substantial imprints.

C. Networking

a. Collaboration with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces during 2012-2013: The Commission on Political Geography is working with other IGU Commissions, in order to organise a group of joint sessions in the IGU RC in Krakow. Hopefully, a strongest collaboration will follow.

b. Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary groups in 2012-2013 The Commission on Political Geography has been actively collaborating with other international research groups, such as BRIT (Border Regions in Transition), ABS (Association of Borderlands Studies), Società Geografica Italiana, EuGeo, Association of American Geography Political Geography Study Group, and many others, in order to co-organise and co-sponsor conference and seminars.

c. Cooperative efforts with ISSC (International Social Science Council) and with ICSU (the International Council for Science) programs.

The Commission has brought the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), initiated by the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) and adopted December 2012 during the ASCB Annual Meeting in San Francisco. to the attention of the Executive Committee. The Commission Was pleased to see that the Executive Committee has decided to sign the Declaration on behalf of the IGU.

D. Publications

a. Newsletters, special journal issues, and books published in 2012-2013 (please provide complete citations for all publications).

On the Commission website are available the three newsletters edited in 2012 and 2013 (n. 15, 16 and 17).

In the same span of time, some of the papers presented in IGU CPG sponsored or organized conferences (such as Borderscapes III) have been submitted to different journals and are now in the referee process.

The AAG 2013 session Authors-meet-critics session, organized by the commission together with PGSG led to the publication of the Review Forum "Reading John Agnew and Luca Muscarà's Making Political Geography", by Virginie Mamadouh, Elena dell'Agnese, Takashi

Yamazaki, Colin Flint, Natalie Koch, Luca Muscarà and John Agnew, *Political Geography*, 38 (2014) pp. 46-56.

As far as the second edition of the Border Crossing Seminar is concerned, seminar papers and students' final works will be published in an annual e-book with the imprint of the University of Milano-Bicocca.

The Post conference fieldtrip to Okinawa has been accompanied by an e-booklet, which is downloadable from: <http://www.lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp/user/yamataka/CPG-Okinawa.pdf> (2.9MB).

b. The current accurate URL of the commission's web site

<http://www.igu-cpg.unimib.it/>

webmaster: Anna Casaglia, anna.casaglia@unimib.it

the Commission has got also a mailing list;

in order to Subscribe to the CPG new mailing list, it is necessary to send an empty email to IGU-CPG-join@list.uva.nl

The Commission has got a Facebook group.

IGU CPG Commission on Political Geography

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/456054597763023/>

To **become a member**, it is necessary to join Facebook and to send a request to the group administrator.

E. Archival Contributions

Materials and publications transmitted to the IGU archives by your commission. Copies of all newsletters, monographs, special journal issues, *etc.* should be sent to IGU Secretary General upon publication. Photographs from your meetings, field excursions, or other events that you are willing to share will be gratefully received and will be included in the *IGU e-Newsletter*.