

A. Membership

The Geographic information Science Commission (GC) currently (January 2015) has 20 members from 17 countries. The number has increased since 2012. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, the commission had 15 members from Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Russia and Sweden. This increase is due to a change, approved in 2015 at the GC commission's business meeting in Moscow to move from the past "Commissioners" commission model to an open membership model with mainly members and a small executive board, which consists of commissioners until the end of their terms. Ultimately, the GC should have a chair, past-chair and chair elect. Seven of the GC members are reaching the ends of their allowed terms and we began the process of finding new members and increasing the number of members last year. The current chair will reach the end of his term in August 2016 and a replacement will be sought. The following list provides the members' names, institutional affiliations and countries.

Name and Title	Instituion	Country	Term Expiring 2016
Lees, Brian, Professor Emeritus	The University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy	Australia	X
Chengu, Zhou, Professor	Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	
Benenson, Itzhak, Professor	Tel-Aviv University	Israel	
Jean-Paul Bord, Professor	University of Montpellier	France	X
Francis Harvey, Professor	Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography and Leipzig University	Germany	X
Rami Asiyanbola	Olabisi Onabanjo University	Nigeria	
Geertman, Stan, Professor	University of Utrecht	The Netherlands	
Roosaare, Juri, Professor	University of Talinn	Estonia	
Salvemini, Mauro, Professor	University of Rome - 1	Italy	X
Schuurman, Nadine, Professor	Simon Fraser University	Canada	X
Shariff, Abdul Rashid Bin Mohamed, Professor	Universiti Putra Malaysia	Malaysia	
Sivertun, Professor	MVI/MTA Swedish National Defence College	Sweden	

Name and Title	Instituion	Country	Term Expiring 2016
Andrey Medvedev, Dr,	Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences	Russia	
Vozenilek, Vit	Palacky University	Czech Republic	
Dr. Gina Weir-Smith	Human Sciences Research Council	South Africa	
Juan David Jones Ortiz, student	Federal University of Santa Catarina	Brazil	
Dr. Lars Brabyn, Senior Lecturer	University of Waikato	New Zealand	
Dr. Tarmo Remmel, Associate Professor	York University	Canada	
Dr. Sabine Timpf, Professor	University of Augsburg	Germany	

Since 2015, instead of use of the term commissioners to designate members, the GC became a member-orientated organization with a standing-committee of current chair, chair elect, and past-chair (ex officio) that provides leadership. The detailed distinction involves the following points: Members receive and can share information with other members related to the commission's international engagement with GIScience. Members also belong to a pool of experts to draw on for reviews of materials submitted to commission for publication under its auspices. Standing-committee members are involved in discussions and decisions about activities and priorities for the commission and participate regularly in IGU-sponsored events (conferences, workshops, congresses, etc). This new organization arrangement parallels the organization of many scientific committees and assures a core of active members involved more intricately in the commission on international issues of research, teaching, and outreach. We hope the change helps the commission and IGU better reach geographers around the world working on GIScience and GIS research.

B. Meetings

The GC organized Spatial Data Handling (SDH) in 2012, held in Bonn, Germany in advance of the IGC Cologne. The conference was supported by Prof. Dr. Sabine Timpf, University of Augsburg. Participants discussed a range of topics in 14 full papers and 10 short papers. Prof. Matt Duckham, University of Melbourne, provided a provocative keynote presentation entitled "When Computing Happens Somewhere". Although participation in the SDH conference, held every two years, remains on constant level, we would like to see it grow more, to around 100 participants.

We also co-organized a GeoComputation meeting held August 2012 in Leeds, England. With the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensors (ISPRS) and IGU commission Modeling Geographical Systems (12.31) we are organizing a joint conference in Toronto, Canada from 6 to 8 October 2014. The commission is also beginning planning of the 2016 SDH conference in Beijing China.

The GC organized Spatial Data Handling (SDH) in 2014 conjointly with the IGU Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems and with ISPRS as the Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications, held in Toronto, Canada from 6-8 October. The local conference organization was aptly

handled by Prof. Songnian Li and his staff and students from Ryerson University in Toronto.

Over three days participants discussed a range of topics in 93 paper presentations and 12 posters. Three keynotes provided anchors for discussions. While attendance remained low, due to overlaps with two other GIS-related conferences at the same time in Canada and the temporal proximity to other international GIScience conferences, both members of IGU and ISPRS found the joint conference to be a fruitful foundation for future successful conferences.

While the 2016 SDH conference in Beijing, on the weekend before the IGU conference, will be organized solely by IGU organizations, the 2018 meeting should again be jointly organized. Planning of the event, led by Chengu, Zhou, Professor at the Chinese Academy of Science, has commenced.

The year 2015 was a year between GC organized events. In 2014 the GC organized conjointly with the IGU Commission on Modeling Geographical Systems and with ISPRS as the Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modeling and Applications, held in Toronto, Canada from 6-8 October. The 17th Spatial Data Handling conference will be held on the weekend before the IGU General Assembly in 2016

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C. Networking

With the Spatial Analysis commission and Applied Geography commissions we have collaborated on the organization of sessions at IGU regional conferences and also worked to maintain and deepen exchanges between our commissions' members. Collaboration with ISPRS commenced in 2014 and we plan to more regularly share information. Also, the GIScience commission is supporting a proposal in ICA to create a commission on Cartographic Semantics. The scope of the commission involves the creation of an international platform to support research on cartographic and geographic information ontologies and data sharing using web 3.0 standards and approaches, esp. linked data and RDF.

D. Publications

The proceedings from the 2012 SDH conferences were published by Springer Verlag in the Geographical Information Series. It contains 14 papers that were selectively reviewed in a double-blind process by at least two reviewers.

The proceedings from the 2014 SDH conferences will again be published by Springer Verlag in the Geographical Information Series. It contains 19 papers that were selectively reviewed in a double-blind process by at least two reviewers. These papers were also presented at the Joint Conference in Toronto and have gone through additional reviews, editing, and preparation for this signature publication of the GIScience commission. We are happy that colleagues in the IGU commission on Modeling Geographical Systems have been involved throughout the process.

In 2015 the commission prepared no publications. In 2016 we plan to publish the SDH Conference Proceedings (selected papers) with Springer Verlag.

E. Archival Contributions

During the period in question, no archival contributions have been made. Email correspondence from the period can be made available to the IGU. Please advise on formats.