

IGU Commission Report 2012-2016

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance

1. Membership

A. Steering Committee 2012-2016

Commission Chair:	
Ján Buček Department of Human Geography and Demography, Comenius University, Mlynska dolina, 842 15 Bratislava, SLOVAKIA	Phone: +421 60296310 Fax: +421 65429064 Email: bucek@fns.uniba.sk
Full Members	
Eiki Berg University of Tartu, Faculty of Social Sciences, Deans Office, Tiigi 78, 50410 Tartu, ESTONIA	Phone: +372 737 5957 Fax: +372 737 5900 Email: eiki.berg@ut.ee
Christine Bichsel Department of Geography, University of Berne, Hallerstrasse 12, CH-3012 Bern, SWITZERLAND	Phone: +4131 631 8864 Fax: +41 31 631 8511 Email: cbichsel@yahoo.com
Futamura Taro International Institute of American Studies, Doshisha University, Karasuma-Higashi-Iru Imadegawa- dari Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto, 602-8580 JAPAN	Phone : +81-75-251-3925 Fax : +81-75-251-3091 Email: tfutamur@mail.doshisha.ac.jp cosmocalypso@gmail.com
Tomasz Kaczmarek Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University, ul. Dziegielowa 27, 61-680 Poznan, POLAND	Phone : +48 61 829 61 42 Fax : +48 61 829 61 27 Email : tomkac@amu.edu.pl
Shannon O'Lear Department of Geography, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7613, USA	Phone: +1 2 961 9360 Fax: +1 2 961 0251 Email: olear@ku.edu
Pushkar K. Pradhan Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University GPO Box, 5488 Kathmandu, NEPAL	Phone: +977 0141 0268 E-mail: pushkar.pr@gmail.com
Andrew Ryder Department of Geography, University of Portsmouth, Buckingham Building, Lion Terrace, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 3HE, GREAT BRITAIN	E-mail: andrew.ryder@port.ac.uk
Carlos Nunes Silva Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, Alameda da Universidade, 1600-214 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	Phone: (351)217920000 Fax: (351) 217960063 E-mail: cnsilva@fl.ul.pt; cnsilva@netcabo.pt
Xiaohong Zhang Institute of Chinese Historical Geography, Fudan University, 220 Handan Rd, Shanghai 200433, CHINA	Phone: +8621 6564 2714 Fax: +8621 6564 6816 E-mail: zhangxiaohong@fudan.edu.cn

B. Number of the Commission members by country (as of December 31st 2015)

Commission corresponding members are located in 55 countries.

<i>country</i>	members	<i>country</i>	members
Algeria	1	Latvia	1
Argentina	5	Lesotho	1
Australia	7	Lithuania	1
Austria	11	Mexico	2
Bangladesh	1	Nepal	4
Belarus	1	Netherlands	16
Belgium	8	New Zealand	6
Brazil	14	Nigeria	4
Bulgaria	1	Norway	4
Canada	17	Pakistan	1
China (PR)	5	Poland	28
Colombia	1	Portugal	7
Croatia	1	Romania	4
Cuba	7	Russia	11
Czechia	17	Serbia	1
Denmark	7	Slovakia	10
Estonia	2	Slovenia	1
Finland	12	South Africa	6
France	9	Spain	8
Germany	31	Sweden	12
Hungary	15	Switzerland	32
India	8	Taiwan/ROC	1
Ireland	5	Tunesia	1
Israel	8	Turkey	1
Italy	15	Ukraine	3
Jamaica	1	United Kingdom	35
Japan	12	USA	51
Korea (South Korea)	8		
		Total	482

C. The URL of the commission's web site:

<http://www.igu-gog.org/>

2. Meetings

A. Meetings organized

2012

12-13 April 2012, Lisbon University, Lisbon, Portugal

"New Challenges for Local Governance" conference
(51 participants)

2012

26 - 30 August 2012, Cologne Germany

32nd International Geographical Congress - "Down to Earth"
(34 participants)

2013

15-17 May 2013, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

"Finance in Transition / Financialization & Governance: Lessons for the Future" conference
(25 participants)

2013

4-9 August 2013, Kyoto, Japan

2013 IGU Regional Conference – "Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future"
(12 participants)

2014

14-16 August 2014, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland

"New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance" - conference
(27 participants)

2014

18-22 August 2014, Krakow, Jagiellonian University, Poland

2014 IGU Regional Conference – "Changes, Challenges, Responsibility"
(22 participants)

2015

9-10 April 2015, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

"Local Government and Urban Governance: Citizen Responsive Innovation in Europe and Africa"
- conference
(70 participants)

2015

17-21 August, 2015, Moscow, Russia

2015 IGU Regional Conference - "Geography, Culture and Society for Our Future Earth"
(47 participants, including poster presenters)

B. Meeting summaries

Each meeting had been briefly summarized in Commission newsletters, including list of papers submitted, as well as organizers.

2012

12-13 April 2012, Lisbon University, Lisbon, Portugal,

"New Challenges for Local Governance" conference

Conference addressed five main issues: the economic crisis and local government finance; local and regional government reforms; local public services provision; urban policies and sustainable development; and citizen e-participation. Among these topics within 14 sessions, the largest attention attracted impact of economic and financial crisis on local governments, as well as their role in crisis mitigation. The second well covered issue had been role of e-government and e-participation in various administrative and decision-making processes. Nevertheless, also other issues like changes in public services delivery (rising intervention of public sector and new modes of regulation) and various new innovations in governance had been also extensively discussed. The conference was enriched by participants representing neighbouring disciplines, as political science, law, and planning. There was also a large number of participating PhD students.

2012

26 - 30 August 2012, Cologne, Germany

32nd International Geographical Congress - "Down to Earth"

Our work during 2012 Cologne IGC had been organized according to three sessions: Governance - key theoretical and methodological issues, main research directions (1); Innovations in public sector - public administration reforms, public sector reorganizations, local finance and progress in planning (2); Governing development in regions, cities and rural communities (3). The Commission had been working for three days in 9 time slots. The attendance during our sessions oscillated from 15 to 45 persons. Thematically papers covered very actual topics linking governance and development issues in various contexts, including problems of governance in less developed countries. Diverse actual features of public sector operation had been discussed (public private partnerships, new approaches in western countries, search for more participatory and customers based approach, business environment support). Large cluster of papers focused on environmental governance and energy issues.

2013

15-17 May 2013, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

conference "Finance in Transition / Financialization & Governance: Lessons for the Future"

Although not large by number of participants, this was very successful meeting organized in cooperation with working group focusing on financialization within Regional Studies Association (mostly geographers and economists). Thanks to support of directly involved associations (RSA, IGU) and universities (Trinity College Dublin, Comenius University Bratislava), it was well accessible meeting without fees. We achieved good mixture of well-established and experienced scholars, as well as young scientists and PhD students, working in this more specific field. They presented and discussed the latest developments in 8 sessions, and two keynote speakers addresses (A. Swain, K. Botos). This conference fulfilled its ambition to link experiences concerning financial aspects of governance within private, as well as public sector. It confirmed rising intersections and practices in financialization. We could listen in research results concerning banking, global financial system, EU funds, public finance and local budgeting, investment finance, urban development finance, or financial regulation in various spatial perspectives. We enjoyed interesting, very stimulating and even provocative discussions concerning various aspects of current "architecture and geography" of financial worlds.

2013**4-9 August 2013, Kyoto, Japan**

IGU Regional Conference- "Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future"

Our sessions in Kyoto were covered by umbrella topic - „Traditions and innovations in governance: better meet the needs of people“. We could discuss during 4 sessions interesting issues concerning the role of traditions in modern governance and public administration organization. More presentation focused on planning and development programming practices influenced by governance. As more innovative issues we can consider case studies that analysed on governance in managing large cities, ports, or cities facing large development initiatives. In global scale it seems important rising attention paid to participatory structures in governance at the local and neighbourhood levels.

2014**14-16 August 2014, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland**

"New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance" - conference

This conference hosted our colleagues from Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, in co-operation with Metropolitan Research Center, both at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznan (Poland). The conference had been organized under the auspices of the Mayor of City of Poznan. Papers had been organized according to 7 sessions, plus one keynote speaker presentation with discussion (Prof. P. Nijkamp). During the conference, we debated set of interesting issues related to current spatial social and economic development governance. Confirmed had been rising attention to issues of participation in public policies at various scales, including various technological tools aimed to enhance citizens participation. We also could observe that governance had been strongly affected by financial crisis and various processes related to public finance consolidation in many countries. Rising attention of geographers attract changes in processes of strategic planning, in which their ability to integrate diverse aspects in spatial dimension is very useful. Current shift in favour of collaborative strategic planning seems very close to the concept of governance. We also could debate more cases in search for suitable governance model integrating cities and their hinterland.

2014**18-22 August 2014, Krakow, Jagiellonian University, Poland**

IGU Regional Conference – "Changes, Challenges, Responsibility"

The Commission organised sessions within the main programme of IGU Regional Conference under one overarching topic - "Geography, governance and citizens' participation", finally with 5 sessions. It seems that issue of participation and role of stakeholders within planning and governance still needs long term research in various geographical settings. We also discussed search for reasonable balance of traditional "numerical democracy" (elections, referenda) and various innovative kind of participation. Nevertheless, more participatory and collaborative approaches are penetrating into more tradition perception of government and are changing it into governance, although it is not any easy, short and straightforward process. As an important field of research we can consider environmental governance, its impact on nature, and role of academics/experts in governance and public affairs in general.

2015**9-10 April 2015, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal**

"Local Government and Urban Governance: Citizen Responsive Innovation in Europe and Africa" – conference

Like previous Commission conferences in Lisbon (all organized by Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning), also this conference had very good response among the scholars all around the world. Initially, we obtained more than 100 abstracts that went through the review process, including scholars from Africa and Latin America, we were especially pleased. Final programme consisted of two plenary sessions, and set of parallel panel sessions (12 panel sessions) around issues of governance in Europe, urban governance in Africa, and ICT in urban governance. They

covered interesting scope of issues in planning, administrative reforms, housing, services delivery (e.g. water, energy, homecare services), smart cities, urban regeneration, sustainable development etc. We were particularly pleased by final session with three key “speakers” (Doris Wastl-Walter, Brij Maharaj, Ari-Veikko Anttiroiko). They initiated very inspiring discussion that led to many important final remarks e.g. concerning future research directions in geography of governance.

2015

17-21 August, 2015, Moscow, Russia

IGU Regional Conference - “Geography, Culture and Society for Our Future Earth”

We enjoyed nice global participation of scholars, with many new participants coming e.g. from China, India and of course hosting country - Russian Federation. We organized three session streams in 7 time slots (focusing on widely debated issues related to our Commission profile - 1. Governance between theory and praxis – multilevel and network governance in spatial perspective; 2. Governance, government and development in rural and peripheral areas; 3. Development, spatial planning and governance. Issues covered by presentations concerned actual developments in urban and rural governance, its intersection with planning, or interesting cases in studying environmental governance. Frequent had been focus on balancing various contesting interests within one territorial framework (e.g. including indigenous and tribal rural communities). Impact of central state policies as well as global markets in various spatial contexts also emerged as an important issue generating pressure for more innovative governance.

C. Future meetings

The Commission strategy will be to have its own annual meetings and participate on main IGU events. Annual conferences will be held mostly in places where current and future Steering Committee members are based. We plan one annual conference a year and additional sessions within thematic conferences and IGU congress. These two events a year will be at different continents, if possible. Among topics considered for future meetings are for example: changes in local, regional and metropolitan governance, multi-level governance, technological aspects of current governance, governance in planning, neighbourhood level governance, financialization of governance, governance in conflict and post-conflict areas, environmental governance.

Tentative plan of future meetings:

2016

21 - 25 August, 2016 in Beijing

The Commission plans more sessions within 2016 IGC. We suppose have about 30-40 papers organized in four sessions with more time slots. Proposed sessions reflect topics that emerged primarily within our discussions during earlier meetings and within Steering Committee consideration.

1. Environmental governance – spaces, actors and powers
2. In search for more inclusive governance
3. Citizen e-participation in local governance
4. Innovations in public sector, public administration and public services

2017

Commission Annual Conference (Europe) – 2017

2017

Commission sessions will be proposed within the framework of planned **thematic conferences** (La Paz is already under consideration to strengthen linkages to Latin American colleagues)

2018

Commission Annual Conference – Europe/Asia

2018

IGU Regional Conference, August 2018, Quebec City, Canada

Sessions will be planned within this IGU event.

2019

Commission annual conference – Asia/Europe

2019

Commission sessions will be proposed within the framework of planned **thematic conferences**

2020

IGU Congress, August 2020, Istanbul, Turkey

Sessions will be planned within this main IGU event.

3. Networking and communication

A. Co-operation with other IGU Commission/Task Forces

Colleagues active also in other IGU Commission participated in our meetings. We were regularly present within IGU Regional Conferences and Congresses, which opened our sessions to other geographers as well. Our members also participate in events organised by other commissions.

B. Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary groups from 2012 through 2016

- conference - *“Finance in Transition / Financialization & Governance: Lessons for the Future”* in 2013 had been organized in co-operation with Regional Studies Association Research Networks on Geographies of Finance and Post-Socialist Transformations

Informally we have closer links to some other bodies like IPSA and its structures working on local government and comparative local government.

C. Co-operation with ISSC and ICSU

No such co-operation.

4. Publications

A. Newsletters

- 2012: Spring (June), Autumn (December)
- 2013: Spring (June), Autumn (November)
- 2014: Spring/Summer (July), Autumn (December)
- 2015: Spring/Summer (July), Autumn/Winter (January 2016)

B. Publications/books

Pushkar K Pradhan, Ján Buček and Eran Razin (eds.) 2013. *Geography of Governance: Dynamics for Local Development*. International Geographical Union Commission on Geography of Governance, Kathmandu/Bratislava, 254 pages, ISBN: 978-9937-2-6508-9

Silva C.N., Buček, J. (eds.) 2014. *Fiscal Austerity and Innovation in Local Governance in Europe*. Ashgate, 235 pages, ISBN 978-1-4724-3243-8

Buček, J., Ryder, A. 2015. *Governance in Transition*. Springer, 341 pages, hardcover ISBN 978-94-007-5502-4; eBook ISBN 978-94-007-5503-1, DOI 10.1007/978-94-007-5503-1.

Selected papers from our conferences and sessions within IGU main events had been published in special issues of the "International Journal of E-Planning Research", "Lex Localis: Journal of Local Self-Government", "Acta Geographica Universitatis Comenianae", "Pravni Vjesnik - Journal of Law and Social Sciences.

Currently under preparation:

Local Government and Urban Governance in Europe. C.N. Silva and J. Buček eds. Springer 2016

Special issue: *Quaestiones Geographicae* 2016, No. 2. (Poland)

5. Archival Contributions

Hard copies of printed materials (books) will be sent in forthcoming weeks to:

Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Archiv für Geographie, Schongauerstrasse 9, 04328 Leipzig, Germany

Most of electronic documents concerning Commission work (including those concerning periods prior to 2012) are available on Commission web page.

6. Continuation

A. The new name of the commission, if it is to be changed

We do not intend to change the name of the Commission, so it will remain as **"IGU Commission on Geography of Governance"**

B. A concise (100-200 words) statement of the commission's mission.

Governance is among key concepts broadly accepted within current social sciences. Geographers have contributed significantly to its development. At present, the links between geography and governance are widely recognized. Through our established international research network, the Commission is studying substance, structures and processes of governance at all levels, in rural, as well as urban settings. Theoretical and methodological reflection of power struggles and collaboration between different actors, social groups and their interests are very important. We do not underestimate need to study very tacit but important relations among public, private and not-for-profit sectors in managing current society. To understand the impact of many new technologies on governance, also belongs to our main tasks. The Commission addresses issues to which extent changes in governance influence public policies and their efficiency. We are deeply

involved in analyses of various collaborative and participatory practices in public administration and planning. We would like to provide policy relevant outcomes to many sensitive issues like development, poverty, human and citizenship rights, justice, values of self-government, as well as public administration organization and reforms. It is part of our Commission tradition that as a geographers, we emphasize more complex, spatial and environmental perspectives that are often neglected e.g. by the political scientists, or economists.

Among our primary interest is to encourage policy-oriented geographical research, facilitate collaboration and academic discourse between geographers and scholars active in other disciplines. We want to generate relevant body of knowledge, advising politicians and decision makers to base their work on scientific results and implement more efficient public policies. Within commission, we will pay attention to theoretical debates, empirical case studies and comparative research, as well as exchange of knowledge among various parts of the world.

C. A list of the individuals who will comprise the new commission's steering committee.

Commission Steering Committee is changing majority of its members. Its composition reflects main regions and countries involved in Commission activities. There were introduced representatives of countries with more members, but until now not presented in Steering Committee (e.g. Italy, Sweden, Ireland). We took into account besides territorial diversity, also age and gender composition. New members also represent various subfields within governance studies.

Commission Chair:	
Carlos Nunes Silva Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, Alameda da Universidade, 1600-214 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	Phone: (351)217920000 Fax: (351) 217960063 E-mail: cnsilva@fl.ul.pt; cnsilva@netcabo.pt
Full Members:	
Jiesheng An Center for Historical Geography, Fudan University, 220 Handan Rd, Shanghai 200433, CHINA	Phone: +8621-55665086 Fax: +8621-65648870 E-mail: jsan@fudan.edu.cn
Ján Buček Department of Human Geography and Demography, Comenius University, Mlynska dolina, Ilkovicova 6, Bratislava 842 15, SLOVAKIA	Phone: +421 60296310 Fax: +421 65429064 E-mail: bucek@fns.uniba.sk
Olga Glezer Geographical Institute, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Staromonetny pereulok 29, 119017 Moscow, RUSSIA	Phone: +7(916)770 28 03 Fax: +7(495)959 00 33 E-mail: yalog@rambler.ru
Tomasz Kaczmarek Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University, ul. Dziegielowa 27, 61-680 Poznan, POLAND	Phone : +48 61 829 61 42 Fax : +48 61 829 61 27 E-mail: tomkac@amu.edu.pl
Ilna Pálne Kovács Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Pappnövelde u. 22, 7621 Pécs, HUNGARY	Phone: +36 72 523800 Fax: +36 72 523-806 E-mail: palne@rkk.hu

Yosuke Maeda Faculty of Education, Niigata University Ikarashi 2-no-cho 8050, Nishi-ku, Niigata, 950-2181, JAPAN	Phone: +81-25-262-7125 Fax: +81-25-262-6539 E-mail: y.maeda@ed.niigata-u.ac.jp
Bríd Quinn Department of Politics and Public Administration University of Limerick, Limerick, V94 T9PX, IRELAND	Phone: +353-(0)61-213514 Fax: +353 (0)61-330316 E-mail: brid.quinn@ul.ie
Peter Schmitt Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University SE-106 91 Stockholm, SWEDEN	Phone: +46 (0)8 674 78 53 Fax: +46 8 16 49 69 E-mail: peter.schmitt@humangeo.su.se
Anna Trono Department of Cultural Heritage, University of Salento, Piazza Tancredi 7, 73100 Lecce, ITALY	Phone: +39 0832 29 6783 Fax : +39 0832 29 5431 E-mail: anna.trono@unisalento.it

Honorary membership

The Commission decided to nominate three distinguished long-term members, with long lasting deep involvement in Commission activities for the honorary membership:

1. **Professor Robert J. Bennett**, Cambridge University, Great Britain, long-term Chair of the Commission (1988-1992) and Steering Committee member (1992-2004), has been among founders of the Commission and is permanently active member.
2. **Professor Doris Wastl-Walter**, University of Berne, Berne, Switzerland, former Chair of the Commission (2000-2008) and Steering Committee member (1996-2000), is very active member of the Commission for more than 20 years.
3. **Professor Eran Razin**, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, former long-term Steering Committee member (2000-2012), is extensively contributing to the work of the commission in various fields of its activities.

D. Summary of the work plan for the 2016-2020 period

Membership

The Commission membership is slowly but steadily rising, including number of countries involved. Our membership is expanding thanks to our meetings, publishing opportunities and information available via Commission web page. Commission is working for about 30 years, so membership replacement is under process (part of older members went to retirement, or even passed away). The Commission is “stronger” in Europe, North America, but the number of members and involvement of colleagues from Asia is steadily increasing. Despite some improvements, we will further focus on attracting new members from Africa and Latin America, where our membership is less impressive. We will work further to increase number of members from more Asian countries. We also will continue in providing enough activity space for young scholars and PhD students.

Meetings

The commission long term effort is to balance its own meetings (on annual base with exception of “congress years”), with sessions organized within large IGU events. We consider as a good idea “thematic conferences” linking together more commissions around particular “strong” theme. Truly speaking, large segment of membership prefer more specialised, smaller, efficient and “low cost” conferences. Increase in IGU financial transfer for the Commission will provide us chance to organize good conference without fees, or only with symbolic fees. Main Commission meeting planned for 2016 will be its sessions during IGU congress in Beijing. Plans for 2017-2020 will be specified later (they are outlined in earlier section of this report), according to discussions during Beijing meetings and after extensively renewed Steering Committee will be confirmed. Main meeting in 2017 will be in Europe. Sessions will be organized within planned 2017 thematic conference. For sure, we will have sessions during Regional Conference in Quebec 2018. Next Commission annual conferences (2018-201) will be planned in Asia and Europe. We will consider participation in thematic conference in 2019, depending on its focus. We will be open to have additional two-three more specialised meetings focusing on hot issues in our field e.g. during meetings of large associations of geographers (e.g. as IBG/RGS, meeting of German speaking geographers, AAG, RSA, or in cooperation with associations in neighbouring disciplines as for example IPSA).

Networking

The Commission has intention to expand its collaboration with partners we have already well established links (especially political scientists, regional scientists). In order to improve co-operation with other IGU Commissions, we welcome idea of thematic conferences, we are considering our participation. Within our publications and meetings we would like to strengthen links to local decision making institutions of hosting countries and sharing experiences of hosting cities, regions, or countries.

Publications

We will continue to stay in contact as well as initiate our members’ activity by publishing Commission newsletter. Our permanent effort is to publish research results of our members as books, journal special issues, or edited and reviewed volumes.

During year 2016 we will complete part of our previous research results as book in Springer publishing house and in one journal special issue.

Prepared by Ján Buček

(with support provided by other Steering Committee members)

Bratislava, Slovakia, 1 March 2016