



COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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<http://www.igu-marginality.info/>

WELCOME

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The first half of this year has come to an end again and we are already preparing for our major event this year, the commission session at Beijing IGU congress and our post congress annual conference in Slovenia (Ljubljana, Koper and Maribor).

The mandate for our Commission ends this year, but we have asked the IGU that we can continue for another four years. All members of the old steering committee have served the time allowed by the IGU statutes or preferred to leave office. We therefore have proposed a new steering committee, to be chaired by Prof. Steve Déry, Université de Laval, Québec. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the old steering committee who have collaborated during the past four years. I wish Steve a good start in his new position.

We would really appreciate if we would get more information from our members therefore I would like to encourage you once more to share with us any news relevant for the purpose of our commission.

The basic information about our commission is included in this newsletter, which you can also find together with much more on our website: <http://www.igu-marginality.info/>.

Stanko Pelc

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2016 ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR 2017

33rd IGC, Beijing 2016

For our session during the IGU congress in Beijing, 17 abstracts were submitted for our topic "*Long forgotten backward spaces in the focus of global economy*". Two of them were rejected because they were not of adequate quality and the focus was not on the topic of our session. We proposed to have our session within three time slots and were informed that the organizers intend to prepare and publish the final program at the end of July.

Slovenia 2016 C12.29 annual conference

For the post congress annual conference in Slovenia "**Marginality, marginalization and sustainable development**" 25 abstracts have been submitted, however the Japanese colleagues' abstract was not in line with the conference topic so they decided that they will not participate. Two more colleagues (from Israel and India) cannot attend the conference and we are now considering the possibility that they give their papers as long distance presentations with the help of ICT.

The program and the book of abstracts will be published by the end of July.

The participants from abroad are from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia (2), Malaysia, New Zealand (2), Romania, Russia and Spain. We also expect active participation of at least a dozen Slovenian participants. The conference is going to start in Ljubljana on September the 1st in the morning with an afternoon excursion to karst areas on the way from Ljubljana to Koper. The next two days the conference sessions will be held in Koper where we also intend to pay some attention to the Slovenian coast and hinterland. On September the 3rd we are going to start the excursion from Koper to Maribor. The first part of it will be dedicated to the western border region with special regard to the Soča valley. We will spend the night from September the 3rd to September the 4th in the once almost completely deserted westernmost Slovenian village Robidišče. On the next day, on the road to Maribor, we shall visit the well-known tourist places in the Slovenian Alps,

Kranjska Gora and Bled. The last day will start with paper presentations in Maribor followed by a walking tour through the city. Afterwards we intend to visit the wine region on the border north of Maribor.

Plans for 2017 and afterwards

We proposed to the IGU executive to continue as a commission with a renewed steering committee, to be chaired by Steve Déry (Québec, Canada). The renewal has to be approved by the IGU general assembly. The decision is going to be taken at the congress in Beijing in August 2016.

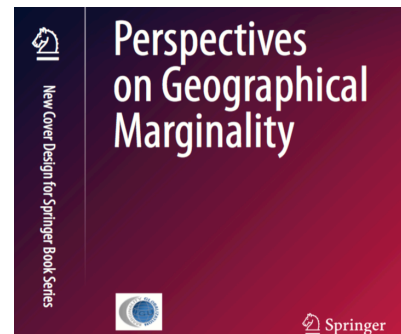
In 2017 we intend to contribute to the conference "Geographies for peace", in La Paz, 24-25 April 2017 (in collaboration with the University of La Paz, and in connection with the XVI EGAL - *Encuentro de Geografos de America Latina* – held at the same time – see the attached first circular). We are reflecting on a thematic session regarding marginality and discrimination as sources of conflict and discuss the de-marginalization process as one of the necessary conditions for peace.

In 2018 a conference will be held during the IGU Regional conference in Quebec in summer 2018. The main focus will be on the (de)marginalization of peripheries.

In 2019 and 2020 the themes and venues are being discussed, but we intend to devote more attention to the processes of (de)marginalization in the countries of Africa and SE Asia.

PUBLICATION MATTERS

Our cooperation with Springer is bearing fruit. The series *Perspectives on Geographical Marginality* (edited by Walter Leimgruber, Etienne Nel and Stanko Pelc) will start with two volumes containing a number of revised papers from the Nainital conference (2011). The first of these books has been published in June 2016. It has been edited by Raghubir Chand and Walter Leimgruber and focuses on *Globalization and Climate Change in Mountain Regions of the World. Assets and Challenges in Marginal Regions*. (ISBN 978-3-319-32649-8).



The manuscript of the second volume edited by Raghubir Chand, Etienne Nel and Stanko Pelc is almost ready for the publication process.

We are now considering the option to ask authors of unpublished papers from previous conferences to prepare chapters for one or more books that will cover certain marginality topic. The real challenge, however, is to prepare some books dedicated to certain marginality/marginalization topics that will not be edited volumes.

A few individual publications have been brought to our attention, and we want to share this information with you.

- Tsutsumi, K.(2013.12) : Mountainous Areas in Japan and Forest Town Management Model (FTMM), in Westerdahl, S., Westlund, H. and Kobayashi, K. (eds.)“Social Capital and Development Trends in Rural Areas Vol.8,” pp. 245-254(Chapter 15), CENSE (Center for Entrepreneurship and Spatial Economics), Jönköping International Business School of Jönköping University, Sweden.
- Krystian Heffner, The Rural Labour Markets in Poland – Shrinking Resources or Endless Reserves, in Transformation processes of rural areas, ed. Wioletta Kamińska, Krystian Heffner, Polish Academy of Sciences, Committee for Spatial Economy and Regional Planning, Warsaw 2013. Studia Regionalia vol. 36, pp. 11-35.
- Makita, R. (2016). Livelihood diversification with certification-supported farming: The case of land reform beneficiaries in the Philippines. *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 57(1), pp.44-59.

OTHER CONFERENCES

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) signals the following three conferences :

- Changing patterns of territorial policy: smart specialisation and innovation in Europe. Sevilla (Spain), September 29-30, 2016 (in cooperation with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre)
- Emerging Paradigm of Rebalancing Regional Development under the Emerging Order of Globalisation, China Association for Regional Economy and Regional Studies Association China Division Conference 2016, Zhengzhou, China, October 18-21, 2016
- Regional and urban studies for strategic planning and development, RSA-Russia conference, St. Petersburg (Russia), October 24-25, 2016
- New pressures on cities and regions, RSA winter conference, London, November 24-25, 2016

The University *Alexandru Ioan Cuza* in Iași (Romania) organizes a conference in October, supported by the Association de Science Régionale de Langue Française (ASRDLF) : **Colloque Géographique International « DIMITRIE CANTEMIR », XXXVIème édition**, 21-23 Octobre, 2016, Iași, ROUMANIE (in French; presentations in English possible by prior arrangement). (http://www.geo.uaic.ro/cantemir/2016/index_fr.html)

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call for information feedback

I would like to continue our tradition of inviting the submission of details of relevant conferences, workshops and publications from Commission members as well as conference reports, lecture courses, seminars etc on the topic of marginality and marginal regions. I think this does serve as a very useful form of knowledge exchange. Please furnish details to me directly or to our secretary.

2. IGU Web Page

Commission members are encouraged to visit the web pages of the IGU (<http://www.igu-online.org/site>) to learn more about the activities of the IGU, including details of conferences, procedures and publications. A further source of information is the homepage of the Home of Geography in Rome (www.homeofgeography.org).

3. Commission Web Page

Please consult also our own website (<http://www.igu-marginality.info/>) for any information needed. You are also encouraged to furnish any relevant information to the webmaster ([Prof. Stanko Pelc](#)).

A concise statement of the mission of the Commission 2016-2020

The mission of the Commission is to research marginality and the processes of marginalization from different perspectives and with a geographical basis. The main focus is to better understand multiscalar relations between the globalization process and how marginality evolves at the local and regional levels. Moreover, we seek to improve our understanding of local and regional responses to different forms of marginality and marginalization processes.

The commission intends to continue to follow the objectives that were in its focus already in this period, that is:

1. *To further the understanding of marginality and the processes of marginalization in our globalized world, through the study and analysis of the forces responsible for the dynamics and structures of spatial marginality at various scales. They will include, among others, issues of technology, gender, social structure and the environment.*

2. *To analyze marginality as the result of human perceptions and decisions, leading to the understanding of the role of the various agents in those processes, and their response to prevailing conditions.*
3. *To develop comparative approaches in order to identify various types of marginality and to put them into perspective and assess their role in an increasingly globalized world. Emphasis in particular needs to be placed on the experience of the South. To study policy/institutional/community responses to economic and societal problems in marginal regions at various scales in relation to local, regional and societal development, and to study human responses to global change, including their implications for marginalization.*
4. *To study policy/institutional/community responses to economic and societal problems in marginal regions at various scales in relation to local, regional and societal development, and to study human responses to global change, including their implications for marginalization.*

The use and development of appropriate theory and methodology is to be involved in each of the above.

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YOUR ADDRESS UPDATE:

Please help us to keep the address list updated by communicating your new address, phone and fax number and e-mail address to me (stanko.pelc@fhs.upr.si) and to our secretary (walter.leimgruber@unifr.ch).