

IGU-Commission C12.07 "Cultural Approach in Geography"

Chair: Benno Werlen

Biennial Report 2012-2013

The years 2012 and 2013 have brought many changes to the commission. In August last year a new steering committee was appointed, injecting new dynamism and ideas into our group. At the same time the work around the initiative for the UN Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) has entered the next stage. On the one hand, the various steps in the political application process in 2012 and 2013 were completed successfully, with just one step missing for the final implementation. On the other hand, the IYGU initiative provides a significant boost to the commission's core ideas on a global, transcultural, and transdisciplinary level. As pointed out in our 2012-2016 mission statement, highlighting the cultural dimension in ecological and sustainability research is a central goal of the commission's work. The report on our activities of the last two years attests to the first thriving steps on this road: On many different occasions vivid discussions on a culturally sensitive human ecology have emerged, further strengthening geography's unique position at the interface of social and natural sciences. Concurrently, significant progress has also been made in the last two years regarding the commission's other research foci, such as the cultural dimension of tourism, the geographies of art, cultural identities, or the role of religious and spiritual practices for the constitution of geographical realities. On the whole, the commission has proven to be a central place of transdisciplinary research on the significance of cultural aspects for economic, social, and political geographies in the local, regional, and global dimension. With respect to the 2014-2016 period we strive for a further intensification of research in these fields, but also intend to revitalize and strengthen our collaboration with other IGU commissions and research groups.

Benno Werlen

1. Membership

1.1 Steering committee

After the IGC in Cologne in mid-2012 the commission's new steering committee for the 2012-2016 period commenced its work. The steering committee now consists of 11 members, four of them continuing their position from the 2008-2012 period. The following people newly joined the steering group: Enrique Aliste, Miguel Pazos Otón, Je-Hun Ryu, Rana P B Singh, Anne Volvey, and Shangyi Zhou. Karsten Gaebler took on the role of as the commission's secretary.

Benno WERLEN (Chair)

Professor of Human Geography Department of Social Geography Friedrich-Schiller-University Loebdergraben 32 07743 Jena GERMANY

Phone: +49 3641 94 88 40 Fax: +49 3641 94 88 42

E-Mail: benno.werlen@uni-jena.de

Enrique ALISTE

Professor of Geography Department of Geography University of Chile Avda. Portugal 84 8331051 Santiago de Chile CHILE

Phone: +56 2 9783110/+56 2 9783112

Fax: +56 2 9783110 E-Mail: ealiste@uchile.cl

Miguel PAZOS OTÓN

Senior Lecturer in Human Geography University of Santiago de Compostela Department of Geography Faculty of Geography and History University of Santiago de Compostela Praza da Universidade, 1 E-15782 Santiago de Compostela SPAIN

Phone: +34 881 811 2632 Fax: +34 981 55 99 41

E-Mail: miguel.pazos.oton@usc.es

Karsten GAEBLER (Secretary)

Department of Social Geography Friedrich-Schiller-University Loebdergraben 32 07743 Jena GERMANY

Phone: +49 3641 94 88 47 Fax: +49 3641 94 88 42

E-Mail: karsten.gaebler@uni-jena.de

Rob KITCHIN

Professor of Geography National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis Iontas Building, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare IRELAND

Phone: +353 1 708 3372 Fax: +353 1 708 6456 E-Mail: rob.kitchin@nuim.ie

John PICKLES

Phillips Distinguished Professor Department of Geography Campus Box 3220 200 S. Elliott Rd. UNC-Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3220 USA

Phone: +1 919 962 3919 Fax: +1 919 962 1537 E-Mail: jpickles@unc.edu

Je-Hun RYU

Professor

Department of Geography

Korea National University of Education

Cheongwon-gun Chung-Buk, 363-791 REPUBLIC OF KOREA Phone: +82 43 230 3616 Fax: +82 43 231 4948

E-Mail: jhryu@knue.ac.kr

Mathis STOCK

Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch Case postale 4176 CH-1950 Sion 4 SWITZERLAND

Phone: +41 27 205 73 00 Fax: +41 27 205 73 01

E-Mail: mathis.stock@iukb.ch

Shangyi ZHOU

Professor of Human Geography School of Geography Beijing Normal University Sheng-Di building at BNU No. 19 Xin Jie Kou Wai Street Haidian District, Beijing P.R. CHINA, 100875

Phone: +86 10 58807455 E-Mail: twizsy@163.com

Rana P B SINGH

Professor of Cultural Geography &

Heritage Studies

Banaras Hindu University

New F-7, Jodhpur Colony, B.H.U

campus

Varanasi, UP 221005

INDIA

Phone: +091 9838 119474 E-Mail: ranapbs@gmail.com

Anne VOLVEY

Faculté d'Histoire Géographie Université d'Artois 9 rue du temple F-62030 Arras FRANCE

E-Mail: anne.volvey@bluewin.ch

Honorary Member of the Commission:

Paul CLAVAL

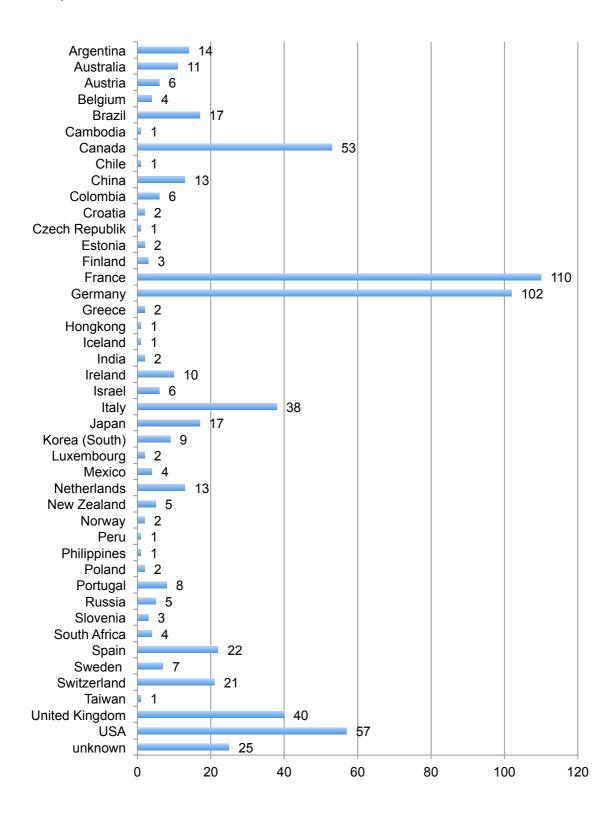
29 rue de Soisy F-95600 Eaubonne

FRANCE

Phone: +33 1 39 59 83 83 E-Mail: p.claval@wanadoo.fr

1.2 Members

The commission has 655 members (as of December 1, 2013) who receive all the information about the commission's conferences and other scientific events via e-mail. The number of people associated with the commission's work increased by nearly 100 since 2011.



2. Meetings

2.1 Meetings at the 32nd International Geographical Congress Cologne (Germany), August 26-30, 2012

The main commission events in 2012 were the sessions at the IGC. A total of seven sessions, each including four to eight papers, were organized. All of the meetings were well attended (approximately 50-100 participants each) and reflected the ongoing interest in the commission's activities.

In accordance with the commission's general aim the session "Cultural Approaches in Social and Geographical Theory", chaired by Benno Werlen, discussed conceptualizations of the cultural dimensions of everyday geographical practices. The session brought together scholars from different subdisciplines of geography, each addressing theoretical and empirical questions around praxis-centered geographical research. Topics discussed in the eight papers were the uses of contemporary practice theory and social theory for geographical research in general, cultural approaches to urban geography and architectural theory, practices of public infrastructure use, cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism, the concept of atmospheres, and network research. On the whole, the session not only highlighted the cross-sectional character of a cultural approach in geography, but also its potential to reshape central problems in human geography.

Issues of sustainability in cultural perspective were addressed in the session "Cultures and sustainability", chaired by Karsten Gaebler. The four papers provided new insights into the role of learning and teaching, knowledge, everyday skills, and religious faith for the development of sustainable practices. Moreover, culturally differentiated strategies of mediation of environmental conflicts were discussed.

The session "Multilocality: symbolic and material constructions of space in societies of mobile individuals", chaired by Mathis Stock and Michaela Schier, broached the changing face of societies under the conditions of widespread multilocal lives. Seven papers were given, addressing contemporary problems of multilocal work and family life, the question of personal identity in multilocal contexts of living, phenomena of migration and migration politics, and multilocal urban practices. In contrast to well-established concepts of "spaces of flows" etc. the session stressed both the disembedding practices and the everyday re-embedding techniques in globalized contexts.

The eight papers given in the session "The Uses of Art in Public Space" (chaired by Julia Lossau and Quentin Stevens) aimed to examine the complex spatialities of public art's conception, production and reception. Whereas the vast majority of existing research into public art has focused on the aesthetic, cultural and political intentions and processes which shape its production, the actual reception of public art and the material landscape within which that reception occurs remained relatively understudied. Thus, the session addressed questions of public art's actual use, including phenomena like the non-use or subversive use of public art, the politics and policies of public art, strategies of urban development through public art, (new) non-visual forms of public art and new ways of public participation, conceptual questions of the various notions of "the public" in public art discourses, and of art's materiality and the bodily interactions with artworks in public spaces.

Geographical aspects of art were also discussed in the session "Spatialities of Art: between policy and politics", chaired by Anne Volvey and Myriam Houssay-Holzschuch. The session particularly focused on the political dimension of art through space, addressing, on the one hand, the role of art within a spatial economy (spatial planning and land engineering), and on the other hand, bottom-up processes of artist-led urban regeneration. A total of eight papers were given, dealing with topics like creativity-themed urban development, art as a tool to challenge socio-spatial divisions, the policies, politics, and spatial practices of "creative cities", and the relation between art and senses of place.

The various geographies of pilgrimage and sacred spaces in the modern world were debated in the session "Cultural approaches to Sacred Spaces in the global era", hosted by Rubén C. Lois-Gonzáles, Valeriá Paül-Carril, and Miguel Pazos-Otón. Punctual or linear sacred spaces do not only represent venues of particular religious experience, but they also have constituted (and constitute nowadays) very important cultural references, marking the identity of societies and territories along the time. Furthermore, they have the power to create very strong images and to spread cultural references of territories throughout the entire world. Taking the historical trails of the Way of Saint-James as an example (a "sacred space laboratory"), the session's eight papers addressed the following topics: the general cultural function of roads, the role of religious architecture for collective awareness and memory, the growing hybridization of tourism and pilgrimage, the site-specific attachments of myths to sacred spaces, impacts of religious trails on regional development, and the changing patterns of landscapes of religion both globally and locally (Eastern Europe).

The session "Cultural Identities", chaired by Je-Hun Ryu and Shangyi Zhou, focused on East Asian local cultures. Grouped into three different slots, the speakers aimed at addressing the effects of globalization in East Asia, historical places in East Asia, and questions of urbanity and rurality in East Asia in a cultural perspective. The first part discussed the complex relations between self-images and modernization processes in emergent Korean cities, the use of ecological arguments against "alien species" to foster Japanese nationalism, the politics of place-based identities, and the role of local and global networks in the East Asian advertising industry. The four papers given in the second part were concerned with the symbolic metamorphosis of Chinese imperial cities, the politics of identity connected to the World Heritage programme, and the historical and contemporary role of church buildings for urban landscapes and identities. Topics discussed in the session's third part were: relations of landscape and senses of place, the challenges posed by tourism for traditional cultures, the making and everyday reproduction of urban space, and the preservation of local, place-related culture through musical practices.

2.2 International Conference "Art and geography: aesthetics and practices of spatial knowledges", University Lumière Lyon 2 (France), February 11-12, 2013

The conference "Art and geography: aesthetics and practices of spatial knowledges" took place under the aegis of Professor Anne Volvey (University of Arras), a geographer specialized in geography of art and member of the steering committee, at the University Lumière Lyon 2, February 11-12, 2013. The event was connected to a

research project funded by the French National Research Agency, Médiagéo and was supported by the UMR5600 and IRG (team research, University of Lyon), Ville de Lyon, and Culture Ireland (Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union). The conference brought together about 200 academics, artists and curators from various fields (geographers, theorists of art, artists, curators) and countries (France, Switzerland, Great Britain, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, United States, Chile, Australia, the Philippines, Israel, Singapore). At the crossroads of contemporary geography and art, the organizers' aim was to explore the contemporary contours of what is "geographical" and to question the boundaries between cultural activities like art and geography. With the latest developments in how space, place, and one's environment are viewed in contemporary art (with terms such as "in situ", "outdoor", and "alternative space" becoming commonly used), it was necessary to critically examine the relevance of geography's various responses to this "spatial turn" and to unravel the implications - in factual, methodological, theoretical, and epistemological terms – of the convergence of contemporary art and geography. Consequently, the main topics addressed by the 66 papers and 13 art proposals given at the conference were:

- the emergence of contemporary art in geographical knowledge; its diverse theoretical underpinnings and methodological foundations; the types of object that are co-dependent with (art venues, the spatial dimension of artistic practice or experience);
- the forms of the "spatial turn" in contemporary art and, concurrently, the ways in which geography (and its theories of space, place, and spatiality) contributes to defining the relational or contextual nature of contemporary art;
- the forms and modalities of geographical knowledge in contemporary art: the use of maps and map-making, fieldwork (observations, interviews) and documentary practices;
- the strategies used by artists to address social concerns and to respond to incentives from spatial engineering; the ways in which geographers with their diverse academic approaches register and critically reflect on those new developments:
- the relationship between art and geography in the making of knowledge of/about space and place, and the relation to space and place; the current regimes of production of geographical knowledge.

As the conference has shown, the ongoing hybridization of art and geography can be observed not only in geography's adoption of artistic practices (i. e. fieldwork methodologies as essentially artistic practices, or map-making as a creative process), but also in the arts's growing interest in issues pertaining to public space, environment, and virtual space, or in the arts's engagement with contemporary spatial development planning and practice (from the branding of artist districts to festivalization and local policies based on cultivating, promoting, and clustering "creative industries"). Particularly the conference's cross-sectional character proved invaluable. The event hosted 31 artists from the fields of visual arts, performance, dance/choreography, participative practices etc., producing papers, videos, photographs, drawings, installations, performances and performed papers, and participatory workshops.

2.3 Meetings at the IGU Regional Conference, Kyoto (Japan), August 4-9, 2013

The commission organized three sessions and a business meeting at the IGU Regional conference in Kyoto. Our aims were, on the one hand, to strengthen the cultural approach in investigations concerned with nature-society relations, and on the other hand, to further integrate the Asian contributions into our commission's work. The sessions were well-attended by IGC standards (about 25 people each) reflecting the conference attendees' great interest in the commission's topics.

The session "Cultural Dimensions of Sustainability", hosted by Benno Werlen, discussed new socio-cultural approaches in geographical sustainability research. Based on the assumption that much of the current integrated research – inside and outside geography – lacks an appropriate consideration of the culturally specific interpretations of the natural world, the session's four papers not only presented new theoretical approaches towards sustainability issues, but also discussed empirical findings that stressed the relevance of culturally sensitive sustainability politics. The discussion touched upon the role of cultural settings (language, beliefs, traditions, customs) for the construction and prevention of risks like environmental changes and hazards, the tensions between the local and the global in the UNESCO's cultural and natural heritage program, the co-evolution of and relation between natural and cultural landscapes, as well as innovative approaches towards environmentalism and resource use based in peace studies.

Culturally specific ideas about the natural world were also discussed in the session "Representations of Nature", hosted by Karsten Gaebler. The papers presented were concerned with everyday and scientific representations of nature, as well as with traditional and modern representational practices, their implications for environmental policy-making, and the potential for conflict where (culturally) distinct notions of nature encounter each other. The main issues discussed were the role of artistic practices (e. g. landscape painting) in reflecting changing nature-society relations, the use of the concept of "ecosystem services" in biodiversity politics, and the culturally and socially specific landscape aesthetics.

The session "Sacred Mountains and cultural identities in East Asia", chaired by Je-Hun Ryu and Shangyi Zhou, addressed the production and reproduction of sacred places through everyday practices in religious, economic, political, and other contexts. As an exemplary case for this process the session discussed sacred mountains which, while playing a major role in the formation of cultural identities in East Asia, remain underresearched from a geographical perspective. The session's seven papers discussed the following topics: the tensions between the spiritual functions and the supply functions of sacred mountains, sacred mountains as historical places of resistance and religious diversity, and the valorization of sacred places in contemporary tourism. In addition, some more general topics were addressed, such as strategies of conserving natural and cultural landscapes, or issues of cultural tourism.

During the Kyoto conference the commission also held a small business meeting. Benno Werlen outlined the commission's general topics and reported on the status of the IYGU initiative. He particularly emphasized the commission's goal of further promoting sustainability research in a cultural perspective and the increasing need for inter- and transcultural approaches. Moreover, a closer cooperation with other

IGU commissions was discussed. One of the first steps to strengthen the collaboration will be three joint sessions together with the commission C12.14 "Geography of the Global Information Society" at the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow 2014.

2.4 International Symposium on "Meanings & Aesthetics in Asian Cultural Landscape", Seoul National University, Seoul (Republic of Korea), October 12-14, 2013

In close corporation with the ACLA (Asian Cultural Landscape Association) Rana P B Singh, member of the steering committee, organized a three day symposium on "Meanings & Aesthetics in Asian Cultural Landscape" at the Urban Greening Institute (Seoul National University). Scientific input was provided by two other members of the commission's steering group, Shangyi Zhou and Je-Hun Ryu. The symposium gathered scholars from Australia, Belgium, P.R. China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, the USA, and Vietnam. In total 28 papers were presented, focusing on the three thematic areas: (i) exposing the meaning and spirit of place, (ii) heterogeneity vs. homogeneity in cultural landscape aesthetics, and (iii) a harmonious path through the concepts of integrity and co-sharedness. The program also included a one-day field trip to the UNESCO Heritage site of the folk village of Hahwe and its environs.

The keynote lecture "Meanings & Aesthetics in Asian Cultural Landscape: Commonality, Distinctivity and Transcendentality", given by Rana P B Singh, discussed general cultural-historical linkages among the East Asian and the South Asian countries. Further papers covered both specific regional topics and conceptual issues, such as notions of Indian cultural landscape, the amalgamation of the spatiality of time and the temporality of space in cultural landscapes, or ritualscapes. Other topics addressed were the idea of contextualism, traditional Korean views of natural scenery and its cultural connotations, or the idea of landscape beauty as a fusion of the sense of place, landscape appreciation, and pleasurable experiences. Finally, ACLA President, Sung-Kyun Kim (Seoul National University), outlined the central role of cultural geographers in studying the meanings, aesthetics, and exposition of cultural landscapes.

As a result of the symposium a research anthology on Asian cultural landscapes will be composed and further scientific events are planned. For instance, some members of the commission and participants of the meeting will contribute to the multidisciplinary symposium on "Waterfront Cities of the World: Viewpoints of History and Environment" in early October 2014 at the LRDE (Laboratory of Regional Design with Ecology, Faculty of Engineering & Design, Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan).

2.5 International conference "Rurality – New Perspectives and Themes", Bamberg (Germany), November 15-16, 2013

From the backdrop of the advancing urbanization of the global population, an interesting rural conjunction can be observed. In the German context, examples of this conjunction are recognizable in the astonishing success of country magazines such as "Landlust" (Country Joy), in TV shows, or in the rapidly increasing abundance and popularity of urban agricultural projects. Despite this contemporary

social development, profound conceptual arguments about the current status of the rural have been rare, especially in German geography. The international and interdisciplinary conference hosted in Bamberg (Germany) on November 15 and 16, 2013, tried to fill this gap and generate new impulses for a scientific examination of rurality. The conference was organized by the University of Bamberg (Marc Redepenning) in collaboration with the University of Mainz (Julia Rössel) and the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (Christoph Baumann). Benno Werlen, chair of the commission, provided his scientific advice.

The international and interdisciplinary character of the conference was facilitated by a sponsorship of the Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung as well as by the support of the Royal Geographical Society/Inst. of British Geographers, and the Research Group "Rural Space" of the German Geographical Society. About 50 researchers from different national contexts (Germany, Austria, England, Wales, Ireland, France, USA, Brazil, Argentina, and India) found their way to Bamberg in order to discuss new concepts and ideas concerning the rural. The participation of scientists from different disciplinary backgrounds (Geography, Sociology, History, Economics, Political Science) enabled a cross-disciplinary social scientific debate.

The various talks showed that the rural can be conceived as a complex and heterogeneous social spatiality. There is not one rurality, but many ruralities: the various globalized ruralities from Newfoundland to India, remote ruralities, orchestrated (post)ruralities of tourism or leisure time, ruralities of (post)productivism, threatened ruralities, etc. Several conference contributions discussed relational and "more-than-representational" perspectives. On the one hand, these approaches examine semantic dimensions of the particular ruralities; on the other hand, they put a focus on physical experiences and material effects. In doing so, a variety of themes were discussed, including:

- the status of the rural in politics of regional development and spatial planning,
- aesthetics of rurality and landscape,
- everyday experiences of the rural idyll,
- the influence of globalization on the rural,
- rurality and in-/exclusion, and
- (in)justice, and vulnerability.

Although we live in a so called "urban age", the conference made clear that the rural is still a very important and vital social scientific research object – an object which requires to be analyzed from various (new) perspectives.

2.6 Meetings and events related to the UN International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) initiative

As outlined in our mission statement for the 2012-2016 period, the promotion of sustainability research in a cultural perspective and thus the support of the initiative for the UN International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) is one of our key goals. The following events represent a brief summary of the most important steps of the IYGU's development in 2012 and 2013:

- May 2012: Benno Werlen met ICSU President Yuan-Tseh Lee in Taiwan to discuss the possibilities for linking the IYGU initiative with the Future Earth program and to prepare the IYGU presentation at the Rio+20 conference in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro.
- June 8-10, 2012: The ICSU-funded conference "Transdisciplinary Intercultural Ecological Research on Sustainability" (TIERS) took place in Jena (Germany). The event featured renowned academics in the field of sustainability research from all five continents, regional-level policymakers from Germany, and young scholars hailing from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. All of the 29 presentations were followed by lively discussions in the formal setting of the conference venue as well as in the more informal environment of the conference's social events. The steering committee of TIERS (Gordon McBean, Heide Hackmann, Margaret Robertson, Ron Abler) selected and reviewed the highest-quality papers from the conference and are aiming to have them published in a book by Springer. The general report to ICSU has been accepted by the evaluation committee at the end of September 2012.
- June 20-22, 2012: The IYGU initiative was represented with great success by Luiz Oosterbeek, Gordon McBean, Eduardo de Mulder, and Inguelore Scheunemann at the Rio+20 conference in Brazil.
- August 26-30, 2013: Benno Werlen presented the IYGU initiative at the International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Cologne (Germany) to a general audience as well as the IGU General Assembly.
- November 2012: The IYGU project was presented by Benno Werlen in Brazil on two occasions. The first presentation was given at the University of São Paulo, the second at the 82nd meeting of the Environment Department (COEMA) of the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce (CNI) in Brasilia. The several meetings in Brasilia yielded successful outcomes: Support for the political process was obtained from the Ministry of External Relations; the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI); and the Confederação Nacional da Indústria (CNI), the national industry confederation. Political support by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) hinges on the Brazilian government backing the IYGU initiative.
- December 2012: ICSU finally confirmed its formal support in a letter of endorsement dated December 10, 2012.
- December 2012: Benno Werlen went to Kigali (Rwanda) on December 14-21 to lobby Rwandan authorities for taking the official lead in the political application process to the UN system.
- March 2013: The Rwandan government takes the decision by executive order to bring the IYGU to the UN General Assembly by seeking first the support of the UNESCO Executive Board and UNESCO General Conference.
- April 2013: The IYGU is confirmed to be tabled at the UNESCO Executive Board meeting in September/October in Paris.
- October 2013: The UNESCO Executive Board unanimously and without debate adopted the resolution of the IGU initiative for an IYGU presented by the group of the East African countries in the name of Rwanda.
- November 19, 2013: The 37th UNESCO General Conference decided unanimously to support the Rwandan submission for the Proclamation of 2016 as the International Year of Global Understanding to the UN General Assembly.

2.7 Proposed future meetings (2014-2016)

- An international seminar on "Banaras, the Heritage City of India: Culture, Tourism and Development" will be held on February 4-6, 2014 at the Dept. of Geography, Banaras Hindu University (IND) under the aegis of Rana P B Singh.
- The commission is going to host the following five sessions at the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow (August 18-22, 2014): "Cultural Approach to Technology and Digital Geomedia", "Landscape Changes and Responsibilities in East Asia", "Sustainability in the Digital Age", "Digital Culture and the Digital Revolution", "MegaEvent Planning: Culture Capitals, Place and Identity", the last three being joint sessions with the commission "Geography of the Global Information Society" (C12.14).
- Enrique Aliste will organize a conference on "Representations, imaginaries, and the role of ideas in the actual cultural geography: for one hermeneutic of territories" (working title) in late 2014 in Santiago de Chile (RCH).
- A conference on "Sacred Spaces: The Cultural Geography of the Way of Santiago" will be organized by Miguel Pazos-Otón in 2014 in Santiago de Compostela (E).
- Rob Kitchin aims to organize a meeting on "Digital technologies and city life" (working title) in 2015.
- Mathis Stock intends to host a conference on "Theoretical geography: contributions and confrontations from the cultural approach" (working title) in 2015 or 2016 in Sion/Lausanne (CH).
- A pre-congress to the IGC 2016 in Beijing is planned by Je-Hun Ryu and Shangyi Zhou on the topic of "Cultural heritages and landscapes".

3. Networking

3.1 Collaboration with other IGU commissions

Several initiatives in the past have tried to establish a closer cooperation with other IGU commissions. For instance, collaborating with the commission on the "History of Geography" was discussed over a longer period of time, but has not yet been put into practice. However, following a number of very constructive talks and agreements in 2013, a strategy on how to advance and focus our collaborative activities was developed. As an immediate output three joint sessions with the commission on the "Geography of the Global Information Society" (C12.14) are scheduled for the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow 2014. Furthermore, similar joint activities with the commission "Geographical Information Science" (C12.12) and the commission on the "History of Geography" (C12.20) are being discussed for the IGU Regional Conference in Moscow 2015. Since the advancement of geographical education in a cultural perspective is one of the priority areas of the IYGU initiative, there will also be collaborative projects with the commission on "Geographical Education" (C12.11) and the IGU Task Force "Geography Olympiad" (T12.01).

3.2 Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multidisciplinary groups in 2012-2013

Within the scope of the IYGU initiative, which represents some of the commission's

core ideas and involves members of our steering committee, a number of external collaborations could be established, also promoting the commission's work. For instance, the "International Union of Geological Sciences" (IUGS) and the "International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics" (IUGG) are now partners of IYGU, as well as the "Young Earth Scientists" network (YES) and the "TakingITGlobal" organization. Beyond that, the commission's cooperation with the "Asian Cultural Landscape Association" has been successfully developed in 2012 and 2013.

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

The IYGU project is supported by ICSU, ISSC, and CIPSH (Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences). Partners are also the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the "Future Earth" research initiative.

4. Publications

4.1 Publications by members of the steering committee

In the last years the commission's work produced a number of publications on the core topics of our group. In 2010, for instance, two volumes on "Geografías Culturales" (Zusman/Haesbaert/Castro/Adamo) and on the "Process of Heritage Making in Geographical Space" (Castro Fernández/Lopez/Piñeira Mantiñán) were released as a direct outcome of commission events. Our strategy for the next years is to make a high number of conference results available as articles, textbooks, and anthologies. However, the topics of our commission are also addressed in the manifold publications by the members of the steering committee. Among the most important publications are the following:

Aliste, E 2012, 'El discurso del desarrollo y sus efectos ambientales en Chile: prácticas espaciales y transformaciones territoriales en el área metropolitana de Concepción, 1950-2010', *Scripta Nova. Revista Electrónica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales*, available from http://www.ub.es/geocrit/sn/sn-418/sn-418-40.htm [December 10, 2013].

Aliste, E, Almendras, A and Contreras, M 2012, 'La dinámica del territorio en la conurbación Concepción – Talcahuano: Huellas urbanas para una interpretación de las transformaciones ambientales durante la segunda mitad del siglo XX', *Revista de geografía Norte Grande*, no. 52, pp. 5-18.

Aliste, E and Rabi, V 2012, 'Concebir lo socio-ambiental: representación y representatividad de los discursos sobre el desarrollo', *Polis. Revista de la Universidad Bolivariana*, vol. 11, no. 32, pp. 307-327.

Claval, P 2012, *De la terre aux hommes: la géographie comme vision du monde*, Paris: Armand Colin.

Claval, P 2012, Géographie culturelle: une nouvelle approche des sociétés et des milieu, 2nd ed, Paris: Armand Colin.

Gaebler, K and Schmid, H (eds) 2013, *Perspektiven sozialwissenschaftlicher Konsumforschung*, Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag.

Pazos Otón, M, Royé, D, Aldrey Vázquez, J A, Valcárcel Díaz, M and Piñeira Mantiñán, M J 2012, XIII Coloquio Ibérico de Geografía – Respuesta de la Geografía Ibérica a la crisis actual, Santiago de Compostela: Meubook.

Pickles, J, Rossi, A, and Luinstra, A (eds) 2013, *Towards Better Work: Understanding Labour in Apparel Global Value Chains*, Geneva and Basingstoke: ILO and Palgrave Macmillan.

Mayer, F W and Pickles, J 2013, 'Re-embedding the Market: Global Apparel Value Chains, Governance and Decent Work' in *Towards Better Work: Understanding Labour in Apparel Global Value Chains*, eds J Pickles, A Rossi and A Luinstra, Geneva and Basingstoke: ILO and Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 17-39.

Pickles, J, Casas-Cortes, M. and Cobarrubias, S 2013, 'Re-Bordering the Neighbourhood: Europe's Emerging Geographies of Non-Accession Integration', *Journal of European Urban and Regional Studies*, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 37-58.

Pickles, J 2012, 'The Cultural Turn and the Conjunctural Economy: Economic Geography, Anthropology, and Cultural Studies' in *The Wiley-Blackwell New Companion to Economic Geography*, eds T Barnes, J Peck and E Sheppard, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 537-551.

Singh, R P B 2013, 'Muslim Shrines and Multi-Religious visitations in Hindus' city of Banaras, India: Co-existential Scenario' in *Pilgrims and Pilgrimages as Peacemakers in Christianity, Judaism and Islam*, ed A M Pazos, Farnham: Ashgate, pp. 121-147.

Singh, R P B 2012, 'Cultural Geography, India, 2008-12' in *Progress in Indian Geography. A Country Report, 2008-2012*, ed R P B Singh, New Delhi: Indian National Science Academy, pp. 81-96.

Singh, RPB 2012, 'Hinduism and Globalization: Pilgrimage Landscapes, Spirituality and Global Message' in *Tradizioni religiose e dell'Asia contemporanea*, ed C Bulfirni, Milano: Bulzoni Editore, pp. 159-191.

Singh, R P B 2012, 'Hindu Pilgrimages and Sacred Sites in India: Planning the Sustainable Religious Tourism' in *Sustainable Religious Tourism: Commandments, Obstacles, and Challenges*, ed A T Trono, Monteroni di Lecce: Edizioni Esperidi, pp. 335-361.

Stock M 2012, 'Faire avec de l'espace. Pour une approche de l'habiter par les pratiques' in *Habiter. Vers un nouveau concept?*, ed O Lazzarotti, Paris: Armand Colin, pp. 59-78.

Stock, M and Antonescu, A 2012, 'Reconstructing the globalisation of tourism. A geo-historical perspective', available from http://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/docs/00/71/68/24/PDF/Stock_Antonescu_tourism_history_2012.pdf [December 10, 2013].

Stock, M 2012, 'Le problème du tourisme dans le modèle des lieux centraux. Réflexions critiques', available from http://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-00716836 [December 10, 2013].

Stock, M and Darbellay, F 2012, 'Penser le touristique: nouveau paradigme ou interdisciplinarité?', *Espacestemps.net*, available from http://www.espacestemps.net/articles/penser-le-touristique-nouveau-paradigme-ou-interdisciplinarite/ [December 10, 2013].

Stock, M and Lucas, L 2012, 'La double révolution urbaine du tourisme', *Espaces & Sociétés*, vol. 151, no. 3, pp.15-30.

Volvey, A 2012, 'OEuvrer d'art l'espace: Entretiens avec Till Roeskens et La Luna (artistes)', *EchoGéo*, available from http://echogeo.revues.org/13170 [December 10, 2013].

Werlen, B 2013, 'Gesellschaft und Raum: Gesellschaftliche Raumverhältnisse', *Erwägen–Wissen–Ethik*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 3-16.

Werlen, B 2013, 'Replik. Weltbilder und Weltsichten', *Erwägen–Wissen–Ethik*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 75-91.

Werlen, B 2012, 'True global understanding and pertinent sustainability policies' in *A new paradigm of sustainability: theory and praxis of integrated landscape management*, eds I Scheunemann and L Oosterbeek, Rio de Janeiro: IBIO, pp. 163-174.

Werlen, B 2012, 'Global Understanding', *Public Service Review: European Science and Technology*, vol. 16, pp. 152-153.

Zhou, S and Tang, S 2012, 'Roles of Historical Documents in Local Elements Formation. A Case Study of Dongshan and Xishan in Wuzhong District of Suzhou City' in *Theoretical Construction and Cultivation of Talents*, ed M Zhang, Beijing: Intellectual Property Publishing House, pp. 77-86.

Zhou, S and Wu, L 2012, 'Enlightenment to the Research of Chinese Local Culture from Western Cultural Geography' in *Local Studies and Local Culture: Theoretical Construction and Cultivation of Talents*, ed M Zhang, Beijing: Intellectual Property Publishing House, pp. 108-117.

4.2 Commission Website

http://www.cultural-approach.net

5. Archival Contributions

None to date.