

C12 10 IGU Gender and Geography Commission Report 2012-2013

A. Membership

(i) The Structure of the Steering Committee

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(ii) The Commission's corresponding members (as of 1 December 2013)

As of December 2013, the Commission's listserv includes 651 subscribers representing at least 45 countries. This is an increase of 18.6% over two years since January 2012 (when there were 554 subscribers). A number of new members were gained in 2013 from geographers attending the IGU Congress and pre-conference in August 2013, particularly geographers from Japan.

In terms of the count by country, specific national origins of a considerable number of subscribers cannot be identified since they use addresses such as gmail, hotmail and yahoo. Based on available information, the largest numbers of listserv subscribers continue to be from the US, the UK and India (over 40 each). Moderate participation levels are found in western Europe (Italy, Spain and Switzerland), Canada as well as Australia and New Zealand. Latin American membership has grown substantially over the last two years, primarily in Brazil, a result of the meeting the Commission held there in 2011 (but extensive use of yahoo and gmail addresses particularly in Mexico and Argentina limits national identification of Latin American subscribers). What is notable is that Brazilian scholars now contribute regular entries (at least 20 per issue) to the Newsletter bibliography from the trilingual (Portuguese, Spanish English) electronic gender journal they began publishing in 2011. Low levels of participation are from eastern Europe and the Middle East (other than Israel). Participation in the listserv appears to be lowest in East Asia (except Japan), Southeast Asia (other than Singapore) and Africa, with only a handful of subscribers in each of these regions.

While the level of participation is uneven across the different countries, it is worth noting that the Steering Committee is characterized by multinational membership: 5 members are from different parts of Western Europe (including the UK), 2 from the US, and 1 each from Australia/New Zealand, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Twice each year, list members receive a newsletter via the Gender and Geography Commission's listserv (igugender@list.arizona.edu) with reports of activities of members and a substantial multilingual bibliography, with the full newsletter issued in English, French, and Spanish. Information is also circulated about other relevant conferences and the newsletter is additionally sent to the US-based geogfem listserv (almost 600 subscribers) and to the British gender and feminist geography listserv (grgrs@jiscmail.ac.uk). Additionally, the newsletter is archived on the Commission's website (<http://igugender.socsci.uva.nl/>) with issues dating from 1988 to the present.

B. Meetings

- a) The meetings your commission organized in 2012-2013 with information on their locations, dates, and numbers of participants.

2012

- **Conference:** IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference on *Down to Earth: Identities, Bodies and Spatial Scales*
Venue: University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
Date: 23-25 August 2012
No. of participants: 80+ (40 presentations)
Organisers: Sybille Baudriedl (University of Kassel) and Anke Stüver (University of Hamburg)

Note: The Gender Commission also organized 5 sessions at the main IGU Congress in Cologne, 25-30 August 2012.

2013

- **Conference:** IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference on *Gender, Power and Knowledge: Building Global Networks through Local Sensitivities*
Venue: Nara Women's University, Nara, Japan
Dates: 1-4 August 2013
No. of participants: 40+ (20 presentations)
Organisers: Yoko Yoshida (Nara Women's University) and Keichi Kumagai (Ochanomizu University)

Note: The Gender Commission also organized 9 sessions (with 22 papers), including 2 sessions (with 8 papers) with the History of Geography Commission, at the main IGU Congress in Kyoto, 4-9 August 2012.

- b) A **brief** summary of the topics addressed at each meeting and the findings or conclusions resulting from the discussions if appropriate. Please highlight the new ideas and insights identified at each meeting and their immediate and long-term theoretical and practical implications.

(1) IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference on "Down to Earth: Identities, Bodies and Spatial Scales", Hamburg, 23-25 August 2012

Summary of topics addressed:

- The general theme encompassed gender issues with a particular focus on embodied identities and their materialities at various spatial scales, but also more general feminist concerns in urban and migration studies, as well as political, economic and social geographies.
- In 12 sessions a broad range of topics were discussed, including care economy, gendered violence in public spaces, multiple meanings of private and public spaces, gentrification, agency of transsexual and queer identities, biographies of migration and gender relations in time of social and economic transformations.
- We also had a special session on feminist methodologies and field experiences, with reflections on gender roles in research practices and language barriers in international feminist communities, as well as a public round-table-discussion on "Feminist geography in a globalised world" in cooperation with a community social centre.

Insights and implications:

- One result of the discussion was that there still exists huge difficulties to transfer outcomes of feminist research and action internationally and that the examined concepts of hegemony (patriarchy, heteronormativity, racism, capitalism) in the debate are very diverse. Gender research is located at different scales from bodies to global economy, which indicates the sense of place in a globalized but in the same time fragmented world.
- There exists no common sense of central distinctions and main categories for intersectional perspectives. Some studies referred on the category gender only, others were linked to age or sexuality or class or race/ethnicity.
- Objectives for future conferences are: (i) to integrate voices from African countries; (ii) to create deeper alliances of established working groups on gender with the growing working groups on sexualities; (iii) to stimulate more externally organized thematic sessions; and (iv) to publish all abstracts in advance of the pre-conference.

Photos:

See Section E.

(2) IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference on “Gender, Power and Knowledge: Building Global Networks through Local Sensitivities”, Nara, 1-4 August 2013

Summary of topics addressed:

- 20 researchers presented their findings over 6 sessions: “Gender, Ethnicity and Migration”, “Globalization, Borders and Mobility”, “Women’s Empowerment and Socio-economic Transformations”, “Gender and Sexual Identity”, “Gender and Public/Private Space” and “Toward Alternative Geographies”.
- The presentations encompassed a diversity of topics and issues, including gender and labour, the queering of public spaces, the formation of migrant communities, the creation of national identities, rural development, and changes in social structures and gender relations following processes of neo-liberalization.
- Befitting the 2012-2016 theme of the Gender Commission on “Scaling Gender: From the body to the globe”, the papers contextualized gender politics at various scales and highlighted the production of new spatialities in relation to local and global linkages.
- In the discussions, focus was also given to the building of cross-boundary research and the complexities of building qualitative international research. Participants also reflected on the lack of quantitative and GIS-related research projects within feminist geography.

Insights and implications:

- The need that more work was still needed in the following areas was recognized: to deconstruct the ways feminist geographies are rooted in Western-centric viewpoints; ways in which male researchers can participate in feminist geographies; how researchers can best respect local sensitivities in their research; and ways of overcoming the challenges of international collaboration (including the need for sensitivity to power differences and for spaces of collaboration to be spaces of trust and flexibility to working differently in different settings).
- The goals set for future meetings include better representation of research from the Global South, and cultivating productive cooperation between researchers across boundaries.
- To foster better participation from researchers from the Global South, Commission members endorsed providing support for (i) an annual student travel award of up to USD1,000 to present a

paper at a Gender and Geography Commission meeting; and (ii) running regional workshops on “Feminist Methods for Constructing Geographical Knowledge” in countries of the Global South to contribute to the training of feminist geographers and consciousness-raising in these countries.

Photos:

See Section E.

c) The meetings or other events you plan to hold in 2014 and later years, including locations, dates, and the topics to be addressed.

2014

- **Conference:** 2nd Latin American Seminar on *Geography, Gender and Sexualities: Intersectionality, Gender and Sexuality in Spatial Analysis*
Venue: Federal University of Rondônia, Porto Velho, Rondônia, Brazil
Date: 8-11 October 2014
Organisers: Maria das Graças Silva Nascimento Silva (Fundação Universidade Federal de Rondônia, UNIR) and Joseli Maria Silva* (Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa, UEPG)
Focus of the Conference: Following a highly successful international meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 2011, Brazilian geographers are organizing this workshop to promote academic and political debate on the intersection between gender, sexuality and race and their relationship to geographical space as Latin American is deeply marked by the strong hierarchy of individuals and social groups.
Collaborative Network: Beyond the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography, the seminar is supported by the Latin American Network of Geography, Gender and Sexualities, the Territorial Studies Group of the State University of Ponta Grossa, and the Studies of Space and Representations Network.
**Joseli M. Silva is a Steering Committee member of the IGU Gender Commission.*
- **Conference:** *Re-Orienting Gender: Geographies of Resistance, Agency, Violence and Desire in Asia* (including a workshop on Feminist Methodology)
Venue: University of Delhi, New Delhi, India
Date: 19-21 November 2014
Convenor: Anindita Datta* (University of Delhi)
Focus of the Conference: This conference aims at initiating a discussion on gender, space and the politics of location in general and on the themes of resistance, agency, violence and desire in the diverse, multilayered social and spatial contexts of Asia, in particular.
Collaborative Network: Beyond the endorsement of the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography, the conference is also supported by the Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) and Lund University, Sweden.
**Anindita Datta is a Steering Committee member of the IGU Gender Commission.*
- **Conference:** IGU Gender Commission Conference on Gender and space - diversity of regional and academic realities (tentative title)
Venue: University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland,
Date: 16-17 August 2014
Organisers: Mirosław Growchowski (University of Warsaw) and Bogumiła Lisocka-Jaegermann (University of Warsaw)
Focus of the Conference: The conference will discuss the condition and research perspectives of feminist geography in different regions of the world, including Central Eastern Europe.

2015

- **Conference:** IGU Gender Commission Conference on Gendered Landscapes of Change and Diversity
Venue: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, USA
Date: 19-20 April 2015 (tentative)
Organisers: Janice Monk (University of Arizona), Ann Oberhauser (West Virginia University) and Holly Hapke (East Carolina University)*
Focus of the Conference: The conference will focus on the gendered experiences of race/ethnicity/religion within the broader contexts of urbanization, immigration/cultural diversity, and economic restructuring.
Collaborative Network: The conference will be co-organised with the Association of American Geographers' "Geographic Perspective on Women" group
**All the organizers are members/Steering Committee members of the IGU Gender Commission.*

C. Networking

- a) Means by which your commission has collaborated with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces during 2012-2013.

The Commission co-organised two sessions (with eight papers) on the "History of Geography, Geographical Thought, and Gender" with the History of Geography Commission at the Kyoto Meeting in August 2013.

- b) Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary groups in 2012-2013.

Various steering committee as well as ordinary members of the Commission regularly attend and organize conference sessions with other international and multi-disciplinary groups, including the main association conferences in the US and UK. For example, members presented research and organized joint paper sessions at the Association of American Geography 2012 and 2013 meetings, and at the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) conferences 2012 and 2013.

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

Robyn Longhurst, immediate past Chair of the Gender Commission, continues as a member of the Steering Committee of the International Year of Understanding (IYGU) and to head the IYGU continental secretariat for Oceania.

D. Publications 2012-2013

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

The Gender Commission's Newsletter:

- The Commission on Gender and Geography's biennial newsletter was published in May 2012, November 2012, May 2013 and November 2013.
- It is edited by Professor Janice Monk and sent to all members (currently over 650) of the Commission. The biennial newsletter (issued in English, French and Spanish) forms an important worldwide communication medium. Each issue (averaging 6-10 pages) conveys information on past and future meetings of the Commission, meetings organised by national and regional groups of

feminist geographers, institutional events and personal research activities, publications and achievements of Commission members.

- The newsletter's reach extends beyond the Commission and the IGU's usual communication channels, as it is also uploaded onto Geogfem and the British Women in Geography Study Group list, while part of the newsletters is translated in German and incorporated in GeoRundbrief, a newsletter which links those interested in gender themes in geography in German-speaking countries.
- All issues of the IGU Gender Commission's newsletters, beginning with No. 1, November 1988, are available on the Commission's web site.

Special Issues

- A special issue on "Bridging Gendered Diversity in a Globalizing World" was published in 2013 in *Hagar: Studies in Culture, Politics, and Identities*, 11 (1), guest edited by Orna Blumen, Tovi Fenster and Chen Misgav. This themed issue contains a selection of papers presented at an IGU Gender Commission's meeting held in Jerusalem, on 8-10 July 2010.

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

- <http://igugender.socsci.uva.nl/>

E. Archival Contributions

- a) 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.

As noted above, all issues of the IGU Gender Commission's newsletters may be downloaded directly from the Commission's web site and members of the IGU executive are included on the listserv.

b) 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*.

- Photos of the IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference on "Down to Earth: Identities, Bodies and Spatial Scales", Hamburg, 23-25 August 2012



- Photos of the IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference on “Gender, Power and Knowledge: Building Global Networks through Local Sensitivities”, Nara, 1-4 August 2013



**Report submitted by Shirlena Huang
For the Commission on Gender and Geography
10 December 2013**

Submit by **15th December 2013** to mmeadows@mweb.co.za. These reports will also provide the Executive Committee with information for **the evaluation** of Commissions.