New book series “Geographies of Tourism and Global Change”

Several commission members have been involved in an initiative to establish a new book series titled “Geographies of Tourism and Global Change”. Negotiations with Springer were successful and the first volumes are expected to be launched in 2016. The book series is edited by Dieter K. Müller (Umeå University), Jarkko Saarinen (University of Oulu) and Carolin Funck (University of Hiroshima). The series will be published in cooperation with the IGU Commission of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change.

The proposed book series Geographies of Tourism and Global Change is global in its reach and aims at examining the geographical nature and mutual relationship of tourism and global change. An important point of departure for the series is that tourism is inherently a geographical phenomenon with social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental significance.

“This is a great step for the commission and its endeavour to produce and disseminate high quality and comparative research in tourism geography” says commission chair Dieter K. Müller. To cooperate with a highly esteemed publisher like Springer further implies a great opportunity to reach out to a global readership. The book series is thus also an excellent complement to the journal Tourism Geographies edited by commission vice chair Alan Lew (University of Northern Arizona) and the commission’s own online proceeding series Tourism, Leisure and Global Change (www.igutourism.com).

In this context a book proposal on Tourism and Transition (Müller & Więckowski) based on the outcomes of the IGU-pre-conference meeting in Poland, has been submitted as well.

Furthermore the editorial team now welcomes book proposals to become part of the newly established series. In order to prepare a proposals potential authors should get into contact with a member of the editorial team; dieter.muller@umu.se, jarkko.saarinen@oulu.fi, or funckc@hiroshima-u.ac.jp.

Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference in Lombok

“Balancing Development and Sustainability in Tourism Destinations” was the topic of this year’s Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference held in Mataram, Lombok, Indonesia 29-31 July 2015. The conference was once again a great success and attracted 175 participant and almost 90 papers. The conference and tourism development in Lombok particularly were even highlighted in an article in The Guardian. The commission was represented by Alan Lew.

The conference has become a major annual event in the region and even in 2016 the conference is planned to be held in conjunction with the Commission’s Pre-Congress Meeting in Nanjing, China.

IGU Regional Conference in Moscow

The commission was among the more prominent stakeholders during the IGU Regional Conference in Moscow, Russia, 16-21 August 2015. Altogether approximately 60 papers were presented during the 16 slots organized by the commission;

- Geography and regional development (6 session slots)
- Tourism and environment (3 slots)
- Tourism, mobility and information (1 slot)
- Tourism geographies (1 slot)
- Geographies of polar tourism (1 slot)
- Urban tourism (1 slot)
- Tourism and crisis (1 slot)
- Mega Events: The Role of Spectacle in Urban Development (2 slots) (together with commissions on Global Information Society, Mediterranean Basin, and Urban Challenges in a Complex World)
In addition numerous posters on tourism geographies were presented as well.

The conference was organized at the Lomonosov Moscow State University and not least geographers from Russia and Asia were attending, while the number of Western Europeans and Americans was limited. Nevertheless for those attending the conference program indeed offered a great platform for discussions on scientific approaches and illustrated the differences between tourism geographies in the East and in the West.

Moreover, discussions comprised the impacts of the Sochi Winter Olympics and the state involvement in tourism development in Russia and other countries. Even the impacts of the recent political tension caused by the Crimean crisis on tourism development was discussed during the sessions.

During the conference a business meeting was held as well, not least in order to present the commission and its activities to potential members from Russia and elsewhere in the world. During the conference the commission was represented by its members Dieter K. Müller, Ann-Marie d’Hautserre, Sanette Ferreira and Jie Zhang.

The Russian colleagues were excellent hosts and few of the delegates’ questions remained unanswered. Moreover the conference participants were able to enjoy great Russian hospitality in an impressive city. In this context the Commission thanks are going not least to Dr. Ekaterina V. Aigina, Department of Recreational Geography and Tourism, Lomonosov Moscow State University, who hosted the commission in a very welcoming and friendly way.

**EUGEO Budapest**

The commission, represented by Dieter K. Müller and Carolin Funck, organized a session on “Tourism, globalization and culture” during the EUGEO-conference in Budapest, 30 August to 4 September 2015. The three slots of the session attracted numerous participants and featured 16 papers not least from Central and Southern Europe. The topics covered spanned from the development of minor cultural resources for rural
tourism development to issues related to tourism crowding in Barcelona and Prague.

The conference coincided with the peak of the European refugee crisis in the Budapest railway station, which in a tragic way underlined the importance of geographical research for explaining these ongoing processes, but also their relation to tourism, which seemingly continued almost unaffected – business as usual – in the Hungarian capital city.

**German Congress of Geography, Berlin**

The commission was also represented with one session on “Application of recent research approaches of economic geography in tourism geography”, at the German Congress of Geography, Berlin, Germany, 1-6 October. The session offered an initial discussion on the nexus of tourism geography and economic geography, but also on ways how tourism geographies can be made more relevant for mainstream geographical research. This discussion is certainly to be continued at future meetings sponsored by the IGU-commission.

**IGU News**

After the Beijing IGC in 2016 the IGU is returning to a biannual meeting cycle. This implies that regional conferences will not be held every year but only every second year. Hence, after the IGC in Beijing in 2016, the next regional conference will be held in Quebec City in 2018.

This change of the event calendar is welcomed by most IGU commissions. Annual conferences implied significant administrative and organizational challenges for the commissions since they were expected to organize sessions and mobilize their members. This entailed a certain fatigue in some commissions and problems to actually gather the members of the commissions.

As alternative to the annual regional conferences the IGU launches thematic conferences. Here commissions are not automatically expected to partake but of course welcomed in case they see possibilities to contribute. A first IGU Thematic Conference is planned on the topic of "The Geographies of Peace", in La Paz, 24-25 April 2017.

The conference is planned in collaboration with the University of La Paz, and the Conference will be organized in connection with the XVI EGAL (Encuentre de Geografos de America Latina) to be held in La Paz, April 2017. The Tourism Commission has so far not made any decision in what way it will contribute to this conference.

For more news visit also the commission web page [www.igutourism.org](http://www.igutourism.org)

**International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU)**

During a couple of years the IGU has been lobbying for an UNESCO International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) in 2016. However a UNESCO-resolution was made but for various political reasons it was not possible to finalize this process. Still the year will be conducted with the support of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), and the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS).

The basic idea of the IYGU ([www.global-understanding.de](http://www.global-understanding.de)) is to connect local actions and global challenges and acknowledge the culturally different paths to global
sustainability. The IGU-commissions are invited to get involved in these activities during 2016 and beyond.

Commission renewal
The commission’s life span is limited until 2016. This implies that all commissions have to report on their activities during the last four years and in case they would like to continue, they have to submit a new proposal to the IGU General Assembly to be held during the IGC in Beijing.

Of course the Commission for Geographies of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change plans for a continuation. However, this requires a revision of the list of commission members since several have been on the board for two consecutive phases. Only chairs are allowed to serve for three phases. Interested researchers are now invited to indicate their interest to commission chair Dieter K. Müller (dieter.muller@umu.se) though a geographical distribution of members and a gender balance have to be sought for.

Upcoming meetings

Even next year the Commission is sponsoring and supporting sessions organized at the AAG annual meeting in San Francisco, 29 March – 2 April 2016. Some of the session, particularly sponsored by the commission, that should be of particular interest for commission members are the following;

- Challenges for Destination Governance Approaches in the Era of Post-Fordism (organized by Andreas Kagermeier & Alison Gill)
- Conceptualising Lifestyles, Work and Leisure Mobilities Through the Lifecourse (organized by Xu Honggang & Kevin Hannam)
- Tourism and simulacra: Imaginaries, architectures, performances (organized by Maria Gravari-Barbas & Jean-François Staszak)

Moreover, Alan Lew and Dieter Müller are organizing a panel “Towards a Research Agenda for Tourism Geography”, which aims not least at inspiring the commission work during the years to come. Besides the organizers Stroma Cole, Patrick Brouder, Alison M. Gill, Maria Gravari-Barbas, Jarkko Saarinen, Regina Scheyvens, Remy Tremblay, Andreas Kagermeier, Xu Honggang, and Kevin Hannam are invited to contribute to the panel discussion.

IGU International Geographical Congress Beijing
The IGU International Geographical Congress in Beijing, China, 21-25 August 2016, is expected to be a record-breaking event in the history of the IGU (www.igc2016.org). Acknowledging the expected scope of the event the Commission has proposed a large number of sessions;

- Tourism and Empowerment Issues in Traditional Communities
- Resilience Approaches to Managing Change in Tourism Places
- Tourism and Economic Geography
- Tourism and Environment
- ICT and Modern Technology in Tourism
- Tourism and Mobility
- Tourism and Violence
- Tourism, Heritage and Globalization
- Urban Tourism and Tourism Urbanization
- Publishing Tourism Geographies (Panel Session)
- Lifestyle mobility and the Local Community
- Tourism and Carbon Emissions
- Tourism Planning and Destination Sustainability
- Nature Based Tourism in Asia
- “Tourism Geographies” in Asia: Contrasting issues, approaches and traditions

The deadline for paper abstracts is set for 15 February 2016 and all submission have to be made through the online system available on the congress web page.

Pre-Congress Meeting Nanjing, China
In addition to the sessions organized during the IGC in Beijing the Commission is still intending to organize a pre-congress meeting in Nanjing, 17 to 20 August 2016. However not all necessary licenses and permissions have been granted yet and hence, a final confirmation is pending.

As soon as possible updated information will be distributed through the IGU-mailing list. Information will be continuously available on the commission webpage, as well. http://www.igutourism.org/china2016.html
IGU meetings beyond 2016

Currently the IGU-calendar comprises the following events:

- 2018 IGU Regional Conference Quebec, Canada
- 2020 IGU International Geographical Congress
  Istanbul, Turkey
- 2022 IGU International Geographical Congress (100 year anniversary), Paris, France

For more and updated information on general IGU events please consider the new webpage of IGU igu-online.org

New Publications

The commission strives for disseminating not least the outcomes of the conferences organized or sponsored by the commission. For that the Commission publishes an annual volume of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change, an online proceedings series covering meetings organized and sponsored by the Commission.

Seasonal Greetings and
A Happy New Year 2016

Please feel free to disseminate this newsletter to interested colleagues!

For joining the IGU Commission’s email list and for receiving continuous information on the Commission’s activities visit the commission web page:

www.igutourism.org

International Geographical Union –
Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change

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