



IGU Commission (C12.15) on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change

REPORT 2012-2016

MISSION

The Commission's specific objective is to examine the geographical nature of tourism, leisure and global change. Tourism and leisure are seen as deeply geographical phenomena that do not happen in a socio-spatial vacuum. They are understood as social and cultural activities occurring in space and time. Therefore, tourism and leisure are placed within wider societal contexts and human mobilities at local, regional, national and global scales. The current processes of globalization or global change in tourism and leisure geographies affecting communities and environments in different places are not seen as one dimensional but as interactional; globalisation and related mobilities in tourism and leisure are also mediated by local and regional factors creating unique outcomes in different places.

The overall objectives of the Commission will be pursued over the life of the Commission through a set of *research tasks* that will be defined through discussions with members and modified as appropriate during the Commission meetings.

1. MEMBERSHIP

1.A. Commission Steering Committee Members

The current Commission Steering Committee members are listed in below. The committee contains 6 women and 5 men and has representatives from Europe, Africa, North America and Asia. Moreover, it covers major language groups.

Prof. Dieter K. Müller (Chair)
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1.B. Commission Members

Since 2008 the Commission member directory has been based on the Commission IGUST -listserv: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/TourismGeography/>, which substituted a manual listing. Unfortunately, the listserv information does not support country based member listing as it is based on members' names and email addresses only. In 2013 a manual inventory was made allowing to identify 631 individual addresses, of which 526 could be related to 67 countries. An update was made in early 2016. Now the 665 individual members could be identified, of which 573 could be related to 73 countries. The membership table below combines this inventory with the previous membership register.

Number of Corresponding Members in 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2013 and 2015:

	1997	1999	2004	2005	2007	2013	2015
Argentina	2	3	8	9	10	6	6
Australia	10	22	31	33	34	33	35
Austria	8	7	7	7	7	8	9
Azerbaijan	-	-	1	1	1	-	-

Bangladesh	1	1	2	2	2	1	1
Barbados	-	-	2	2	2	1	1
Belgium	5	6	8	8	8	3	4
Bolivia	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Botswana	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brazil	1	1	6	6	8	7	8
Bulgaria	2	2	2	2	2	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Cameroon	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Canada	36	37	42	46	57	27	31
China	-	3	8	10	14	17	17
Costa Rica	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
Croatia	1	1	2	3	3	2	1
Cuba	-	1	1	1	1	-	1
Cyprus	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Czechia	3	3	5	6	6	2	4
Denmark	-	1	1	1	2	2	2
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Egypt	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Finland	2	4	6	6	6	9	11
France	23	25	33	33	33	17	19
Germany	27	25	30	32	32	23	23
Ghana	-	-	-	1	1	2	2
Greece	1	1	2	3	3	3	4
Guatemala	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Guyana	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Honduras	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Hong Kong SAR	-	1	3	3	5	_*	_*
Hungary	4	4	3	3	3	3	5
Iceland	1	2	3	3	3	4	4
India	1	4	9	12	13	21	25
Indonesia	-	-	3	3	3	3	3
Iran	-	-	3	2	2	2	3
Ireland	5	3	5	5	6	5	4
Israel	2	3	5	7	7	6	5
Italy	6	8	11	13	14	22	25
Japan	2	2	5	5	5	10	11
Jordan	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Kazachstan	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Kenya	-	-	-	4	4	-	-
Korea (South)	2	3	3	3	3	5	6
Laos	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

Lithuania	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	3	3	3	3	3
Maldives	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Martinique	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Mexico	2	2	5	5	5	7	8
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Morocco	1	1	4	4	4	-	-
Namibia	-	-	1	1	1	2	2
Nepal	-	6	7	7	8	3	4
Netherlands	5	6	7	7	7	5	3
Netherlands Ant.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
New Zealand	3	9	18	21	21	23	23
Nicaragua	-	-	2	2	2	-	-
Nigeria	1	1	3	3	3	-	-
Norway	4	4	6	6	6	3	4
Pakistan	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Peru	-	-	1	1	1	2	2
Philippines	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Poland	6	6	6	6	6	3	7
Portugal	2	4	11	13	13	15	20
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Romania	-	-	-	4	4	7	9
Russia	2	2	2	2	2	-	1
Samoa	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	3	3	2	2
Serbia	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Singapore	1	5	6	7	7	5	5
Slovenia	2	2	3	4	4	2	2
South Africa	5	7	13	14	16	13	19
Spain	4	8	14	16	16	12	12
Suriname	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sweden	6	7	14	14	15	16	14
Switzerland	4	5	7	7	7	6	5
Taiwan ROC	-	1	1	1	1	5	4
Tanzania	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Thailand	-	2	4	4	4	2	2
Trinidad	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Turkey	2	2	7	9	11	6	7
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
United Arab Em.	-	-	1	1	1	1	1

United Kingdom	11	11	39	47	50	50	51
United States	37	41	75	84	89	69	70
Vietnam	-	-	1	2	3	-	1
Yemen	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
<i>Unknown</i>	-	-	-	-	-	106	92
Total:	246	308	525	604	637	631	665

*Since 2013 Hong Kong and Macao are included in China

1.C. Commission Web Page

The Commission maintains a web page at: www.igutourism.org

2. MEETINGS

2.A. Commission Meetings

IGU meetings

- Tourism Commission Pre-Congress Meeting, 22-25 August 2012, Trier/Mosel, Germany (ca 40 participants)
- International Geographical Union Congress, 12 Tourism Commission Sessions, 26-30 August 2012, Köln, Germany (ca 80 participants)
- IGU Tourism Commission Pre-Conference *Tourism between Tradition and Modernity*, 28 July-3 Aug 2013, Beppu, Japan (35 participants)
- 13 sessions at the IGU Regional Conference, 4-9 August 2013, Kyoto, Japan (ca 80 participants)
- New perspectives on Second Homes, 10-13 June 2014, Stockholm, Sweden (35 participants)
- IGU Tourism Commission Pre-Conference: Tourism and Transitions in a Time of Change, 13-17 August 2014, Kraków / Pieniny Mts, Poland (35 participants)
- IGU Regional Conference: Changes, Challenges, Responsibilities, 18-22 August 2014, Krakow, Poland (80 participants)
- IGU Regional Conference Moscow, 16-21 August 2015 (80 participants)

Sponsored meetings

- Sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, 24-28 February, New York, NY, USA (ca 40 participants)
- *Sustainable Tourism in Urban Environments*, 20-22 April 2012, Hong Kong
- Sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, 9-13 April 2013, Los Angeles, USA (ca 40 participants)
- *Coastal, Island and Tropical Tourism*, 16-18 April 2013, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (ca 200 participants)
- *Sustainable Tourism in Urban Environments*, 20-22 April 2013, Hong Kong (ca 50 participants)

- 2 sessions on *Tourism for Peripheries?* at the 5th Nordic Geographers Meeting, 11–14 June 2013, Reykjavík, Iceland (25 participants)
- *Peripheral Landscapes and Frontiers in Tourism Research*, 20-22 September 2013, Kanas N.P., Xinjiang, China (ca 100 participants)
- Sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, 8-12 April 2014, Tampa, USA
- Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference - Nature, Culture and Networking for Sustainable Tourism, 8-10 August 2014, Dambulla, Sri Lanka
- International Conference on Sustainable Tourism and Resilient Communities, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 6-8 May 2015 (40 participants)
- 6th Nordic Geographers Meeting, 15 - 19 June 2015, Tallinn, Estonia (30 participants)
- Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference, 29-31 July 2015, Lombok, Indonesia
- EUGEO 2015, Budapest, Hungary, Budapest, 30 August – 2 September 2015 (40 participants)
- German Congress of Geography, Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 1-6 October 2015 (30 participants)

2.B. Brief Summary

The numbers of commission events, commission-organized and sponsored events, has been high and hence, this review focuses on self-organized events mainly. However, it can be noted that many of the sponsored event thematically mirror very well the topics raised during the IGU commission events.

The objectives of the commission have not changed since the establishment of the new commission in 2012. In accordance a set of *research 'tasks'* that were been defined through discussion with Commission members and modified as appropriate during the Commission meetings are the following;

- Task 1 Interpreting the meaning of 'sustainability' within the context of tourism, leisure and global change;
- Task 2 The operation and regulation of tourism and leisure in a 'borderless world'
- Task 3 The relationship of tourism and leisure to issues of time-space convergence;
- Task 4 Tourism and leisure in the interaction between natural, rural and urban systems;
- Task 5 The inter-relationship of tourism and leisure with place, identity and citizenship within the context of global change;
- Task 6 The dynamics and capacities of communities and institutions in order to effectively contribute and respond to global change; and
- Task 7 Contributing to relevant international research programmes associated with the aims and objectives of the Commission
- Task 8 Examination of tourism's relationships to global environmental change
- Task 9 In relation to task 8 specific examination of tourism's relationships with global climate change.

These tasks are discussed and examined during the whole Commission time span. The table below outlines the comparative international studies that have been undertaken through the various meeting activities outlined above in relation to the goals and objectives of the Commission. The table indicates the extent to which the Commission has embraced particular tasks (T1–T9) through its various meetings as well as ensuring that specific research outputs such as proceedings and other publications have been tied to the Commission's objectives and goals.

Meetings 2011–2015											
	FWI	Chi1	Chi2	Trier	Col.	Bep.	Kyot	Stoc	Pien	Krak	Mos
	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2015
T1											
T2											
T3											
T4											
T5											
T6											
T7											
T8											
T9											

2013

The main general outcomes from the meetings in 2013 are not least related to the heritage – development nexus. It has been shown that geographical context affects the outcomes of attempts to develop tourism. Here not least the increasingly global characteristics of tourism imply challenges to local stakeholders involved in destination development and management. This requires mutual global cultural understanding and sensitivity not least since many places show multiple layers of meaning to different stakeholders. The outcomes of the conferences also underline the continuing need to improve the understanding of impacts (benefits and costs) of tourism in a local-global nexus. Moreover, an improved understanding of the institutional preconditions in different places is necessary in order to achieve a sound comparison of development. Here a greater integration with other fields of geography certainly promises new avenues for research. This is also necessary in order to contribute to sustainable development where touristic mobility increasingly seems to become an important challenge and opportunity.

Tourism between Tradition and Modernity was the theme for pre-conference meeting, 31 July to 4 August 2013, for the IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto, Japan. Altogether more than 25 papers were presented in sessions on the following topics; Tourism in Asia; Branding and commodification; Tourism and nature; Wellness, body, spirit; Experience, interpretation and management. Participants came from Japan, China, Germany, the USA, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, the UK, Slovenia, Israel and Ecuador.

The IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto, 4-9 August 2013 offered 13 sessions organized by the commission and 7 more sessions on tourism geographies. This made tourism one of the most prominent topics during the conference. Papers covered a wide array of topics and particularly the strong presence of Asian geographers provided a good opportunity to familiarize with current issues in Asian tourism geographies.

2014

The main general outcomes from the meetings in 2014 are related to the specific topics addressed during the conferences. The Stockholm meeting addressed second home tourism and reflected critically on previous findings and conceptualizations of second home tourism and mobility. Particular effort was however given to the issue of urban-rural relationships and governance of second homes as an increasingly global but also international phenomenon. A major outcome of the conference was however an extension of the second home idea into new fields like camping, caravanning, and other forms of self-catering accommodations. This was not least discussed in relation to identity and multi-local living.

The IGU Tourism Commission Pre-Conference meeting “Tourism and Transitions in a Time of Change” was held in the Pieniny Mts in southern Poland and combined a mix of academic paper sessions and field trips in the touristically utilized borderlands to Slovakia. The conference topic was addressed with regards to various kinds of tourism-related transitions. Not least new preconditions for tourism after political-economic transition were highlighted. However, delegated even discussed aspects of climate change induced transitions. A major outcome of the meeting was certainly the insight that transitions imply not only winners and/or losers but often leave stakeholders in more volatile situations requiring awareness and skills to adapt. Also it should be noted that the pre-conference meetings attracted geographers from all continents and thus became a truly global event.

During the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow the Commission offered sessions on 7 selected topics and further co-organized sessions with fellow commissions on additional 5 topics; Tourism, sustainability and global change; Tourism and regional development; Urban tourism geographies; Geographies of heritage and cultural tourism; Changing Dynamics of Tourism in Central Europe; Tourism in mountain areas; Publishing tourism geographies (Panel Session); Tourism and borders (together with Commission Political Geography); Tourism, dark heritage and war (Commission Political Geography); Gender and tourism (Commission Gender and Geography); Tourism and marginality – local initiatives shaped by global trends (Commission Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses); Mega-events (Commission on Global Information Society).

Hence, the commission was involved in altogether 22 well attended session slots featuring approximately 80 paper presentations. This underlines the great interest for tourism as a field of geographical inquiry that has been already noted during the Cologne and Kyoto meeting. Obviously it is difficult to summarize such a scope and variety of

topics. The numerous attendance of geographers from Eastern Europe entailed however fruitful encounters of geographical traditions and, certainly, an important outcome of the conference is a greater mutual understanding regarding scientific approaches and ideas. A further outcome of the conference is an internationalization of not least Eastern European tourism geographies since many new contacts could be established.

Particularly the panel session on “Publishing tourism geographies” turned out to be a great success attracting about 40 delegates. This session was organized not least as a reaction on interest voiced by young scholars during previous meetings and aimed at encouraging international publishing ambitions. Not least attendees from Eastern European countries were appreciative regarding this initiative.

2015

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. 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.

Not least the Russian participants presented impressive empirical studies and mapping exercises. However theoretical papers also provided insights into different ways of thinking about how to do tourism geographies. Particularly the focus on touristic resources and their qualities characterized many of the Russian presentations. 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.

Summary

The location of IGU- and Commission-events in Asia and Eastern Europe certainly contributed to integrate new perspectives in the the ongoing debate. The contrasting experiences displayed during the events indicated a further need for dialogue, geographical sensitivity and awareness as well as rethinking of approaches and models used within tourism geographies.

However, even the changing geopolitical situation surrounding the events demonstrated a need to rethink political aspects as a major force framing and regulating tourism and mobility again, through the construction of new borders and boundaries.

2.C. Commission Meetings 2016

The Commission plans to organize, sponsor or co-sponsor the following meetings during 2016;

- Sessions at the AAG Annual Meeting 2016, San Francisco, March 19- April 2, 2016
- *The International Conference on Sustainable Tourism and Global-Local Understanding: “Bridges between Global Thinking and Local Action”*, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 11-13 May 2016 (celebrating the IYGU)
- *Geography and Planning: Creating a New Tourism Landscape - Pre-Congress Meeting in Suzhou & Hangzhou, China*, 15-18 August 2016
- 17 sessions at the 33rd IGC Beijing, *Shaping our Harmonious Worlds*, 21-25 August 2016

The following commission sessions have been proposed for the IGC Beijing;

- Tourism and Empowerment Issues in Traditional Communities
- Tourism and Violence
- Tourism, Heritage and Globalization
- Urban Tourism and Tourism Urbanization
- Lifestyle Mobility and the Local Community
- Tourism and Carbon Emissions
- Tourism Planning and Destination Sustainability
- Tourism, Environmental Change and Sustainability
- Nature-based Tourism in Asia
- Resilience Approaches to Managing Change in Tourism Places
- “Tourism Geographies” in Asia: Contrasting issues, approaches and traditions
- Tourism and Economic Geography
- Tourism and Environment
- ICT and Modern Technology in Tourism
- Tourism and Mobility
- Publishing Tourism Geographies (Panel session targeting young scholars)
- Is Tourism a Help or Hindrance to Global Awareness and Understanding? (Panel session celebrating the IYGU)

For 2017 the Commission has already started negotiations to organize IGU Commission meetings in France and Brazil in 2017. The commission aims further to continue cooperation with partners in the USA and Asia.

3. NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION

3.A. Collaboration with other IGU Commissions

The Commission conducted joint sessions during the IGU regional conferences in Poland and Russia.

Pre-Conference 2014, Pieniny Mts, Poland

- Joint session with Commission Political Geography

Regional Conference in Krakow 2014;

- Tourism and borders (Commission Political Geography)
- Tourism, dark heritage and war (Commission Political Geography)
- Gender and tourism (Commission Gender and Geography)
- Tourism and marginality – local initiatives shaped by global trends (Commission Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses)
- Mega-events (Commission on Global Information Society, Commission Mediterranean Basin, Commission Urban Challenges in a Complex World)

Regional Conference in Moscow 2015;

- Mega-events (Commission on Global Information Society, Commission Mediterranean Basin, Commission Urban Challenges in a Complex World)

3.B. Collaboration with other organizations

The Commission co-organized meetings or sponsored sessions in cooperation with the following organizations:

2012

- AAG
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference

2013

- AAG
- Association of Japanese Geographers Study Group on Tourism and Leisure
- Japanese Society for Geographical Sciences Tourism Working
- Nordic Geographers Meeting
- Chinese University of Hong Kong

- Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference

2014

- AAG
- Polish Geographical Society
- Polish Academy of Science
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference

2015

- AAG
- Nordic Geographers Meeting
- EUGEO
- German Geographical Congress
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference

4. PUBLICATIONS

4.A. *Regular Publications*

The Commission is involved in the production of four regular publications.

- a) ***Tourism Geographies***: The scientific journal *Tourism Geographies* was developed based on the IGU commission collaboration and the commission has a representative position in the editorial board. Commission Vice Chair Alan A. Lew is editor in chief. Furthermore six commission members are resource or consulting editors for *Tourism Geographies*.

Since 2012 *Tourism Geographies* has published four volumes including 18 issues and more than 150 articles, many of those presented previously at commission events.

- b) ***Tourism, Leisure and Global Change***: The commission established in 2014 an online publication series *Tourism, Leisure and Global Change* (www.igutourism.com). The goal of the publication is to serve as a Proceedings publication and to publish papers and abstracts for all IGU Tourism Commission sponsored meetings, including both IGU regional meetings and other meetings that list the IGU Tourism Commission as a co-sponsor. It is operated in cooperation with Prof Dr Lawal Marafa, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Geography and Resource Management.

So far three volumes have been launched:

- Tourism, Leisure and Global Change Volume 1, 2014 (includes 31 articles)
- Tourism, Leisure and Global Change Volume 2, 2015 (includes 15 articles)
- Tourism, Leisure and Global Change Volume 3, 2016 (includes 15 articles to date)

- c) ***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 commission chair Dieter K. Müller (Umeå University), former commission chair and now IGU vice president Jarkko Saarinen (University of Oulu) and commission member Carolin Funck (University of Hiroshima). The series is published in cooperation with the IGU Commission of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change and additional members of the commission are represented on the advisory board of the book series.
- d) ***Commission Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change Newsletter***: The commission newsletter has been published online since 2012 with two issues annually. It is also sent to all corresponding commission members.

4.B. Ad hoc Publications

Besides these regular publications of the commission a number of ad-hoc publications have been outcome of the events organized by the commission:

- Commission Meeting Tourism and Crisis, August 2010, Stellenbosch, South Africa is documented in;
Visser, G. & Ferreira, S. (Eds.) (2013). *Tourism and Crisis*. London: Routledge.
- Commission Pre-Congress Meeting, 22-25 August 2012, Trier/Mosel, Germany is documented in;
Kagermeier, A. (Ed.) (2012). *Transforming and Managing Destinations: Tourism and Leisure in a Time of Global Change and Risks*. Studien zur Freizeit- und Tourismusforschung 7. Mannheim : Verl. MetaGIS-Systems.
- Commission Pre-Conference *Tourism between Tradition and Modernity*, 28 July-3 Aug 2013, Beppu, Japan is documented in a special issue of *Asia Pacific World* (2014, vol 5:2)

- Commission Meeting New perspectives on Second Homes, 10-13 June 2014, Stockholm, Sweden will be documented in;
Hall, C.M. & Müller, D.K. (2016). *The Routledge International Handbook of Second Homes*. Oxon: Routledge. (forthcoming)
- Commission Pre-Conference Meeting, Tourism and Transitions in a Time of Change, 13-17 August 2014, Kraków / Pieniny Mts., Poland will be documented in:
Müller, D.K. & Wieckowski, M. (2016). *Tourism in Transition*. Amsterdam: Springer (forthcoming)
- Commission chair Dieter Müller and past commission chair Jarkko Saarinen contributed to the anniversary issue of *Geographia Polonica* on the occasion of the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow:
Saarinen, J. (2014). Tourism geographies: Connections with human geography and emerging responsible geographies. *Geographia Polonica*, 87(3), 343-352.
Müller, D. K. (2014). 'Tourism geographies are moving out': A comment on the current state of institutional geographies of tourism geographies. *Geographia Polonica*, 87 (3), 353-365.
- The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Tourism: Numerous commission members contributed to the state-of-the-art publication co-edited by commission vice chair Alan Lew;
Lew A.A., Hall C.M., & Williams, A.M. (Eds.) (2014). *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Tourism*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

5. ARCHIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Commission's newsletters have been forwarded to the IGU-archives.

6. CONTINUATION

6.A. Commission Name

The suggestion for the upcoming period 2016-2020 is that the Commission continues its work under the same name, i.e.

Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change.

6.B. Mission of the Commission

The Commission's specific objective is to examine the geographical nature of tourism, leisure and global change. Tourism and leisure are seen as deeply geographical phenomena that do not happen in a socio-spatial vacuum. They are understood as social and cultural activities occurring in space and time. Therefore, tourism and leisure are placed within wider societal contexts and human mobilities at local, regional, national and global scales. The current processes of globalization or global change in tourism geographies affecting communities and environments in different places are not seen as one dimensional but as interactional and interrelated; globalisation and related mobilities in tourism and leisure are also mediated by local and regional factors creating unique outcomes in different places.

6.C. Proposed Steering Committee

The proposed steering committee has been assembled with regards to gender (5 men/6 women), geography (Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Oceania) and language (English, German, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Chinese, Japanese, Afrikaans, Swedish, Greek). Preliminary it consists of 3 old and 8 new members.

- Professor Dieter K. Müller, Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University, 90187 Umeå, Sweden, dieter.muller@umu.se (Chair)
- Associate Professor Velvet Nelson, Department of Geography and Geology, Sam Houston State University, P.O. Box 2148, Huntsville, TX 77341, USA, vnelson@shsu.edu (Vice Chair) *NEW*
- Professor Julie Wilson, Department of Geography, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Joanot Martorell 15, 43480 Vila-seca, Spain, julie.wilson@urv.cat
- Professor Theano Terkenli, Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, University Hill, Geography Building, Mytilene, 81 100 Lesbos, Greece, terkenli@aegean.gr *NEW*
- Professor Tim Coles, University of Exeter Business School, Rennes Drive, Exeter, EX4 4PU, UK, T.E.Coles@exeter.ac.uk
- Professor Remy Tremblay, Département Sciences humaines, Lettres et Communications, TÉLUQ - Université du Québec, 5800, Rue Saint-Denis, Montréal (Québec) H2S 3L5, Canada, remy.tremblay@teluq.ca *NEW*
- Professor Xu Honggang, School of Tourism and Management, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China, xuhongg@mail.sysu.edu.cn *NEW*
- Professor Regina Scheyvens, School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, R.A.Scheyvens@massey.ac.nz *NEW*
- Professor Gustav Visser, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies Stellenbosch University, South Africa, gevisser@sun.ac.za *NEW*

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6.D. Summary of Work Plan for the Commission for 2016-2020

An important point of departure for the work plan is that tourism is inherently a geographical phenomenon with social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental significance. Tourism creates links between people and places, and connects different cultures and environments. Moreover, tourism is a major force for global change. It creates geographical imaginations, human mobilities and flows of culture, ideas, values, commodities, and capitals, and influences society far beyond the immediate tourism industry. At the same time tourism is embedded in other global processes creating constraints and opportunities for its development. Furthermore tourism is an important cause for global environmental change.

In a geographical tradition the commission addresses these issues with an integrated approach acknowledging the interrelationship of tourism to wider processes within society and environment. This is done at local, regional, national, and global scales demonstrating links between these scales as well as outcomes of global change for individuals, communities, and societies. Current processes of global change in tourism geographies affecting communities and environments in different places are also mediated by local and regional factors. This creates unique geographical outcomes and contributes to the transformation of place. The commission applies a truly global perspective highlighting development in different parts of the world and through that acknowledging tourism as a formative cause for societal and environmental change in an increasingly interconnected world.

These ambitions can be summarized in a number of objectives to be addressed in the period until the next IGC in 2020. In accordance a set of *research 'tasks'* have been defined as result of the outcomes of previous conferences;

- Task 1: Interpreting the role of tourism and leisure as an agent of and tool for regional change and community development in rural and urban environments, not least as response to global change
- Task 2: Examination of the tourism – physical environment nexus, and particularly tourism’s interrelationship with global climate change
- Task 3: Examination of the interrelationship of tourism, peace, violence, ideology, and political change
- Task 4: Understanding tourism’s and leisure’s role for sense of place, identity, culture, citizenship, and global awareness
- Task 5: Bridging the gap between tourism geography and other geographies
- Task 6: Contributing to relevant international research programmes such as the IYGU associated with the aims and objectives of the commission

For achieving this the commission plans to conduct comparative research and discuss the findings at annual conferences. Besides participating at the stipulated major IGU-events in Quebec City (2018) and Istanbul (2020), the commission further aims to organize pre-meetings to these events dedicated to the above identified tasks. A preliminary meeting plan is as follows;

- 2017: Commission meeting (preliminary in Brazil)
- 2018: Commission IGU regional conference pre-meeting, Canada
IGU regional conference Quebec City, Canada
- 2019: Commission meeting (TBA)
- 2020: Commission IGU regional conference pre-meeting, Turkey
IGU regional conference Istanbul, Turkey

Further the commission aims at participating at the stipulated IGU-thematic conferences relevant for the objectives of the commission. The major IGU-events will also be used to cooperate with other commissions. Moreover, in order to achieve a global perspective, the commission aims at organizing and sponsoring conferences on all continents. In order to facilitate this, a more prominent presence of the commission at national and regional geography meetings will be aimed for.

During the period 2012-2016 the commission accomplished a comprehensive set of publication channels, including a scientific journal, a book series, an online proceedings series, and a regular newsletter reaching more than 650 corresponding members. These channels will now be used to disseminate results of commission work and achievements to a wider academic audience.

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