Report on the activities of the

IGU Commission on Population Geography

Report 2012-15
Proposal Continuation of the Commission, 2016-20
MEMBERSHIP

1A. Commission on Population Geography Steering Committee
Members, 20012-16

Professor Etienne Piguet (Chair)
Institut de Géographie
Université de Neuchâtel
2000 Neuchâtel
Switzerland
Tel: +41-32-7181919
Fax: +41-32-7181701
etienne.piguet@unine.ch

Professor Jianfa Shen (Vice-Chair)
Department of Geography and Resource Management
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Shatin, N.T.
Hong Kong
Tel.: +852-3943-6469
Fax: +852-2603-5006
jianfa@cuhk.edu.hk

Dr. Nikola Sander (Secretary from 2015)
Research Scientist
Demography and Education
Research Group
Vienna Institute of Demography
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital
Wohlebengasse 12-14,
1040 Vienna
Austria
Tel.: +43 1 515 81 7738
Fax: +43 1 515 81 7730
Nikola.Sander@oeaw.ac.at

Professor Elli Heikkilä (Secretary up to 2015)
Research Director, Institute of Migration
Eerikinkatu 34
20100 Turku
Finland
Tel.: +358-2-2840450
Fax: +358-2-2333460
elli.heikkila@utu.fi

Professor Samuel Agyei-Mensah
Department of Geography and Resource Management
University of Ghana,
Legon, Accra
Ghana
agyeimens@yahoo.com

Professor Paul Gans
Chair of Human Geography
Department of Geography
University of Mannheim
68131 Mannheim, Germany
Tel.: +49-621-181-1958
Fax: +49-621-181-1953
paulgans@uni-mannheim.de

Professor Graeme Hugo (Sadly, Prof. Hugo died in 2015).
University of Adelaide, Adelaide South Australia 5005, Australia
Tel.: +61-8-83033996
Fax: +61-8-83033772
graeme.hugo@adelaide.edu.au

Professor Gunnar Malmberg
Department of Social and Economic Geography
University of Umeå
Umeå
Sweden
gunnar.malmberg@geography.umu.se

Professor Satoshi Nakagawa
Graduate School of Economics
Faculty of Economics
Kobe University
Tel.: 078-803-6853
nakagawa@econ.kobe-u.ac.jp

Professor K Bruce Newbold
School of Geography and Geology
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario - Canada
Tel: 905-525-9140
newbold@mcmaster.ca
1B. Commission members by country as of 31 December 2015

The commission counted 120 corresponding members as of 31.12.2011. This number nearly tripled to 336 as of 31.12.2015.

The task to increase the number of corresponding member was mentioned in the previous quadrennial report. We are happy that this task was completed.

<table>
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</table>
1C Commission’s URL

The Commission has a brand new website [http://igu-popgeo.github.io/popgeo-website/index.html](http://igu-popgeo.github.io/popgeo-website/index.html). The website is managed by Nikola Sander. The task to redefine the aim of the website and to update its content was mentioned in the previous quadrennial report. This task was completed.

2. Meetings

2A. Meetings organized (or sponsored) during the period 2012 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Geographical Congress 2012</td>
<td>Köln, Germany</td>
<td>26-30 August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop on climate change and migration</td>
<td>Neuchâtel, Switzerland</td>
<td>28-20 May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th International Conference on Population Geographies (sponsored)</td>
<td>Groningen, Netherlands</td>
<td>25-28 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGU – Regional Conference</td>
<td>Kyoto, Japan</td>
<td>4–9 August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUGEO 2013</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td>5–7 September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment questionner les liens migrations et développement dans les Afriques du centre et de l'ouest (sponsored)</td>
<td>Dschang, Cameroon</td>
<td>6-9 nov. 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGU – Regional Conference Kraków</td>
<td>Kraków, Poland</td>
<td>18–22 August 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th International Conference on Population Geographies 2015 (sponsored)</td>
<td>Brisbane, Australia</td>
<td>30 June – 3 July 2015</td>
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2B. Summary or program of meetings: Session organized and Questions addressed

Int. Geographical Congress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Köln</th>
<th>IGU</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>26-30 August 2012</th>
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Already presented in the 2008 – 2012 report

Workshop on climate change and migration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neuchâtel</th>
<th>IGG</th>
<th>Switzerland</th>
<th>28-20 May 2013</th>
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</table>

The workshop was hosted by the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and co-organised with the University of Sussex (UK). It was supported by the IGU Commission on Population Geography. The workshop brought together PhD student as well as confirmed researchers working in the main mountain regions of the world: Andes (Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia), Himalayas (Nepal and India), Africa (Tanzania) and Europe (Italy, Portugal). Here are some of the questions that were addressed:

- What is the role of the environmental factors in past, current, and future migrations in mountain areas?
- Does existing migration in mountains hold out a prospect for greater resilience (for those left behind)?
- Is a climate-resilient mountain community more mobile, or is it one with more migration options?
- What role do urban areas play – as migration destinations but also as vulnerable places themselves - in a context of migration in mountain areas in the context of climate change?

The full report is available here: http://www2.unine.ch/cms/site/inst_geographie/op/edit/migration_climate_change_1

7th International Conference on Population Geographies (sponsored)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groningen</th>
<th>ICPG</th>
<th>Netherlands</th>
<th>25–28 June 2013</th>
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</table>

The conference was hosted by the University of Groningen. It was supported - among
others - by the IGU Commission on Population Geography. Keynote speeches were given by Sarah Harper ("Rethinking Global Ageing"), Cristina Martinez-Fernandez ("The impact of demographic change on local labour markets") and Martin Bell on the IMAGE project - Internal Migration Around the GloBE. Special sessions addressed the issues of Population Decline, Healthy Ageing, Global Population Growth, Environmental Change and Migration, Highly Skilled Migration between the Global North and South, Arctic Population Geography, Internal Migration of Graduates and Regional Labour Markets.

**IGU – Regional Conference Kyoto, Japan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kyoto</th>
<th>IGU</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>4–9 August 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The conference was well attended: The total number of participants, including both pre-registration and on-site registration, was 1,434 persons. If the number of participants from sponsor companies/organizations were added, this number would amount to approximately 1,500 persons. Such an attendance is more than previously expected, and it seems fairly high for an IGU Regional Conference.

Seven specific session on topics related to population geography were organized by the commission

1. Transnational migrants and the cosmopolitan possibilities of the city Chair: Prof. B. Yeoh
2. Population migration and climate change (1) Chair: Prof. Hugo
3. Population migration and climate change (2) Chair: Prof. Piguet
4. Population change and social impacts (1) Chair: Prof. Shen
5. Population change and social impacts (2) Chair: Prof. Shen
6. Population change and social impacts (3) Chair: Prof. Shen
7. Population change and social impacts (4) Chair: Prof. Shen

Three additional sessions welcomed general contributions in the field of population geography. All documents are still available here: [http://oguchaylab.csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/IGU2013/index.html](http://oguchaylab.csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/IGU2013/index.html)

**EUGEO 2013**

<table>
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<th>Rome</th>
<th>EUGEO</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>5–7 September 2013</th>
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The fourth EUGEO Congress took place in Rome, Italy, 5-7 September 2013, at the University of Rome La Sapienza and at the Società Geografica Italiana (Villa Celimontana) under the title “Europe, what’s next? Changing geographies and geographies of change”

Several session touched upon issues related to population geography.
Prof. Piguet participated to a session on recent development in global changes and human mobilities organized by Armando Montanari.

See the abstracts here: http://www.eugeo2013.com/component/content/article/36-call-for-papers/88-s26 Full program: http://www.eugeo2013.com/

**Comment questionner les liens migrations et développement dans les Afriques du centre et de l’ouest (sponsored)**

<table>
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<th>Dschang</th>
<th>University of Dschang</th>
<th>Cameroon</th>
<th>6-9 nov. 2013</th>
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The conference was hosted by the University of Dschang under the scientific responsibility of Pierre Kamden and Nathalie Kotlok. It was supported - among others - by the IGU Commission on Population Geography.

Les migrations font débat dans les sociétés de départ, de transit et d’arrivée. Elles sont soit intimement liées à l’amélioration des conditions de vie des uns et aux profits de quelques autres, soit aux déplacements forcés, aux drames humains ou aux exploitations issues d’un temps que l’on pourrait espérer révolu. Ces ambivalences lient de fait les migrations internationales à la question du « développement » que ce colloque ambitionne de revisiter en explorant entre autres les rapports modulés que les migrants entretiennent à l’ordre institutionnel et aux dynamiques socio-spatiales qu’ils incorporent ou modifient à diverses échelles et de différentes manières. Cette approche s’opérera dans une perspective comparative féconde des travaux de terrains divers, aussi bien d’Afrique de l’Ouest que d’Afrique du Centre.

**IGU – Regional Conference Kraków**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Kraków</th>
<th>IGU</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>18–22 August 2014</th>
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**Session 1: Processes of population change and migration**

Organizers: Jianfa Shen, Department of Geography and Resource Management. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. E-mail: jianfa@cuhk.edu.hk
Yu Zhu, School of Geography, Fujian Normal University, China, E-mail: zhu300@fjnu.edu.cn

Abstract:

Different countries, regions and cities are experiencing different paces and patterns of population change and migration. Some countries and regions are experiencing rapid population growth and urbanization while others are facing population decline. They are driven by profound social and economic changes in the recent decades and the demographic change will also affect social and economic development in various parts of the world. There is continued need to examine the divergent population change and migration processes, as well as policy implications. The aim of this session is to examine emerging trends of population change and migration in different countries, regions and cities. Each paper can focus on a particular case and all participants can exchange and compare the processes, patterns and
policy options of population change and migration in different parts of the world.

**Session 2: Education migration within and across the global world**

Organizer: Darren Smith, University of Loughborough, E-mail: d.p.smith@lboro.ac.uk

Abstract:

Education-led forms of migration within nation states and across international borders are increasingly being investigated as a major component of population redistribution (Findlay et al., 2012). In this session, we seek papers that demonstrate the diversity of migration flows and processes that are influenced by education-related decision-making and aspirations. Papers are sought which shed light on the following dimensions of education migration: sub-national, international or global movement of consumers of education (i.e. pupils, students) and / or providers of education (e.g. teachers, academics, policy makers) in formal (creches, nurseries, schools, education) and informal settings.

**Session 3: Population migration and Climate change**

Organizer: Etienne Piguet - University of Neuchâtel - Etienne.piguet@unine.ch

Abstract:

The amount of empirical research focusing on the link between environmental degradation and forced migration in order to forecast the migratory consequences of global warming has risen significantly in recent years. The variety of empirical methods used by researchers is impressive, ranging from qualitative interviews and historical analogies to questionnaire surveys and highly sophisticated statistical methods. This session will attempt at an overview of recent empirical results as well as at a critical assessment of different methodologies. This session will be an opportunity to collect and compare empirical results in different parts of the world.

**Session 4: Reurbanization in Europe – Comparing Trends and Driving Factors**

Organizer: Paul Gans, University of Mannheim, e-mail: paulgans@uni-mannheim.de

Abstract:

In Germany cities have improved their image as places to live. After decades of decline large German cities with at least 100,000 inhabitants have registered population growth since the beginning of the 21st century. Nevertheless this reinforcing trend does not apply to all large cities. There is a remarkable diverging development within the urban system with growth on the one hand and decline on the other hand which influences the perspectives of future city development.

The aim of the session is to examine emerging trends in recent years in European countries and to compare driving factors. What factors fuel this polarization between the cities? In which combination do factors on the local (e.g. economic structure, education facilities, urban projects, urban development path), on the regional (e.g. innovative capacity and competitiveness of enterprises, promotion of trade and industry) or on the national (e.g. migration policies, consequences of the economic crisis, demographic change) level influence the population development of cities?
Session 5: Migrations: internal and international. Spatial patterns and models.

Organizer: Alina Potrykowska – The Government Population Council of Poland - a.potrykowska@stat.gov.pl

Abstract:

The geographical pattern of internal and international migration flows has changed rapidly over the last few years and it is still changing. In view of the uncertainties about the benefits and drawbacks of rural-urban migration, detailed investigations should be undertaken of the causes and effects of differing migration streams. New flows have developed within the more developed countries. Moreover, this should also be done for international migration streams, which are generally from lesser to more developed countries where economic opportunities are greater, but the growing number of refugee movements has complicated the patterns. This session will focus also on migration and human mobility in contemporary modernization crisis, and conceptual geographical aspects of territorial dynamics.

Session 6: Spatial patterns of fertility

Organizer: Sławomir Kurek – Pedagogical University of Cracow, Institute of Geography - sgkurek@up.krakow.pl

Abstract:

Geographical variations in fertility levels exist across continents, countries and regions. Many countries are currently experiencing significant reductions in fertility with many underlying causes of this phenomenon. Fertility decline below the replacement level leading to ageing populations is one of the most important contemporary demographic problems in Europe. In terms of theoretical background the changes in the level of fertility can be explained by the concept of the second demographic transition (SDT) and its regional disparities within particular countries may result from different timing in the spread of value orientations associated with SDT. The changes in fertility patterns may proceed differently in large cities, suburban zones or rural areas. Different levels of fertility in terms of individual regions may therefore be the result of many complex variables, related to the specific of the study areas in terms of their socio-economic situation as well as cultural differences, namely the level of education, economic activity, the availability of institutional forms of care and education for children, job opportunities for women, the availability and price of housing, the social environment and prevailing attitudes about family, religion and ethnicity).

The aim of this session was to discuss geographical patterns of fertility at different scale (macro, mezo and micro), in Europe and in the world as well as to focus on the underlying causes of fertility decline and its consequences.

8th International Conference on Population Geographies 2015 (sponsored)

| Brisbane | ICPG | Australia | 30 June – 3 July 2015 |

This Conference on International Population Geographies was hosted at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. Travelling to Australia from Europe is a long trip, but it was definitely worthwhile the hassle! The conference, which was supported by the IGU Commission on Population Geography, brought together over 200 delegates from 36 countries. The theme of the conference was "The Spatial Dimensions of Population", and the programme included a broad range of topics, from Indigenous Demography to Immigrants and Settlements. The full programme can be found here:
The conference was officially opened by David Kalisch. The programme featured three plenary talks on (1) Migration in the Modern World, jointly by Phillip Rees, Peter McDonald, Ellen Percy-Kraly and Nikola Sander (secretary of the UGI commission on population geography); (2) The Global Burden of Disease, by Alan Lopez; and (3) Advances in Applied Demography, by David Swanson. The presentation slides of the plenary talks and many other presentations are available here: http://www.gpem.uq.edu.au/icpg-presentations

IGU – Regional Conference Moscow, Russia

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Moscow</th>
<th>IGU</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>17-21 August 2015</th>
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*Session 1: Human mobility and latest Census data: new evidences, new insights

JOINT SESSION Commission on Population Geography and Commission on Global Change and Human Mobility (Globility)

Organizer & Chair: Josefina Domínguez-Mujica (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - josefina.dominguezmujica@ulpgc.es ) & Etienne Piguet (University of Neuchâtel - Etienne.piguet@unine.ch )

Abstract:

Statistical data available today are still highly variable from country to country. Developed countries have normally specialised Statistical Institutes and different records provided by Municipal Register Statistics, Social Security Registrations, surveys, which allow a detailed knowledge of demographic phenomena. However, human mobility is still a phenomenon very difficult to measure and track. Data arising from Population Censuses in terms of both flows and stocks enhance the possibilities of researchers on this matter but several countries recently abandoned population censuses. A move that might be especially problematic for data on small areas related to migrant populations.

Besides, such demographic sources are especially meaningful in the case of developing countries, as they represent most of the times the only means to study population figures and its significant processes. The goal of this proposal is, therefore, to promote the use of census data for the analysis of human mobility, allowing us to identify new trends in specific geographic regions and countries. In countries were census data are not available any more the session will explore alternative sources such as register and large scale surveys.

*Session 2: Migrating out of Poverty in Asia

Organizer & Chair: Brenda Yeoh (National University of Singapore) - geoya@nus.edu.sg

Abstract:

An on-going tension exists around migration as a strategy for development. While some argue that labour migration is a means of improving livelihoods, others claim the need to migrate is necessitated precisely due to conditions of poverty and lack of development. Nevertheless international migration has become increasingly significant in the Asian region as people respond to the global demand for jobs that include production, construction, domestic and care-related work. It has been well established that labour migration does not just result in economic gains, but entails a rather complex set of ‘costs’ that include but are not limited to prolonged separation from family and the potential for abuse and exploitation.
This session seeks to ask critical questions about labour migration in the context of poverty alleviation including:

- How do migrants themselves weigh up the financial and social ‘costs’ of migration against the potential ‘gains’ through remittances?
- To what extent do pre-existing conditions at the point of migration, such as the stability of migrant families’ financial resources, influence what might be considered a ‘successful migration’?
- How do particular migration regimes, especially those that are highly dependent on the role of recruitment and placement agencies and other commercial intermediaries, influence migrants’ potential to ‘migrate out of poverty’?
- What are some of the policy, as well as legal and institutional frameworks that need to be deployed by both sending and receiving countries in order for migration to become a sustainable development strategy for migrant families in Asia?

*Session 3: Interactions between human processes, population changes and the environment

Organizer & Chair: Daniel Ervin & Jessica Marter-Kenyon - dervin@umail.ucsb.edu (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Abstract:

This session will feature research about the impact of human processes on the environment. We will focus on coarse-scale data gathered from satellite images, population surveys, and similar data measures in order to explore the complex dynamics between human population changes, human movement, agriculture, and the characteristics of the landscapes they inhabit.

*Session 4: Processes of population change and migration

Organizer & Chair: Prof. Jianfa Shen – Chinese University of Hong-Kong - jianfa@cuhk.edu.hk

Abstract:

Different countries, regions and cities are experiencing different paces and patterns of population change driven by migration and changes in mortality and fertility. Some countries and regions are experiencing rapid population growth and urbanization while others are facing population decline. These different trends of population changes have profound consequences for social and economic development. The aim of this session is to examine emerging trends of population changes in different countries, regions and cities and discuss the social impacts of such population changes. Each paper can focus on a particular case and all participants can exchange and compare the processes, patterns, social impacts and policy options of population change in different parts of the world.

The session has three aims:

1. Analyse emerging processes and main drivers of population changes in different countries, regions and cities;
2. Examine the social and economic impact of emerging trends of population changes;
3. Discuss policy options for solving the challenges brought by population changes.

*Session 5: Geographies of International Student Mobility 1: The Roles of Gender, Class and Ethnicity
Abstract:

Remarkable advances have been achieved in re-theorising international student mobility in relation to the forces shaping the internationalisation and differentiation of spaces of higher education. Within this context, this session will explore the uneven nature of student flows in terms of gender, class and ethnicity. Recognising that intersectionality is now an important paradigm, the aim of the session will be to offer an analytical perspective that sheds light on how social norms around gender, class and ethnicity shape student mobility and how it is practiced and performed: who goes, why they go, where they go, how they go, when they go, with whom they go, and whether they stay after their studies or move on. In this spirit, we invite empirical papers and/or theoretically driven presentations inspired by, but not limited to, any of the following questions:

• How does intersectionality shed light on how migration practices have emerged in the pre-migration stage, in the transition across state boundaries, and in the experiences of different international students in countries of destination?

• To what extent do social norms around gender, class and ethnicity influence the decision of students about which country to choose for tertiary studies, what kind of university to enrol in, what field to choose, what city to go to or avoid, and whether to return, stay or move on?

• How do patriarchy and class operate in the 21st century in terms of i) people’s ability to migrate for tertiary education, and ii) the relationship between student mobility and lifetime mobility aspirations? To what extent do the practices of student migration have enduring impacts on power relations in other arenas such as the household?

*Session 6: Geographies of International Student Mobility II: The Roles of Immigration Policies, Universities and Recruitment Agencies

Abstract:

The numbers of internationally mobile students have dramatically increased in recent decades. The forces that shape international student mobility have been a central preoccupation among scholars in recent years. The aim of this session is to explore the role that external agents, such as governments, universities and recruitment agencies play in facilitating or restricting the cross-border mobility of international students. The session will reflect upon the following questions: How do immigration policies affect the movement of students across national borders? Are immigration policies geared to attracting the largest possible numbers of international students or rather to restrict the numbers of student flows? What are the interests and strategies of Universities towards international students? Are educators and administrators working in all cases towards eliminating barriers to student mobility? To what extent have recruitment agencies become a central agent in recruiting international students for universities? A central premise of this session is that there is no homogeneous answer to the former questions. Answers will depend to a larger extent on the individual national contexts, and the different degrees of importance assigned by individual national governments and universities to international student flows. In Europe alone there is no homogeneity across national states, and even policies within individual states can sometimes be quite contradictory. Gaining a cross-national and comparative perspective is thus much needed at the present time. This session, therefore, welcomes empirical papers and/or theoretically driven presentations inspired by, but not limited to the former questions.
3C Meetings and other events planned by the Commission, 2016-2020

IGU – 33rd International Congress Beijing RPC

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<th>Beijing</th>
<th>IGU</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>21-25 August 2016</th>
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Six sessions and two joint sessions will be organized by the Commission on Population Geography.

The session titles are:
1. Migration and Changing Social Worlds in Asia:
   Negotiating Gender Subjectivities and Family Relations (Chair: Brenda Yeoh)
2. Demographic Divide 1: Coping with shrinking (Chair: Paul Gans)
3. Demographic Divide 2: Coping with growth (Chair: Paul Gans)
4. Processes of population change and migration (Chair: Jianfa Shen)
5. Urbanisation and population change in China: parallels and differences to the developed world (Chair: Darren Smith)
6. Migration and Climate change an overview with a specific focus on China and Asia (Chair: Etienne Piguet)
7. Understanding Contemporary Dynamics of International Student Mobilities (Chair: Yvonne Riano) joint session with C12.10 Gender and geography
8. Demographic sources and methodologies to study human mobility (Chair: Josefina Domínguez-Mujica) joint session with C08.17 Global Change and Human Mobility

3. Networking

3A Links with other IGU Commissions and Taskforces
As the report on meetings listed above has illustrated the commission has engaged with several other IGU Commissions.

The commission plans to pursue the fruitful contacts. Especially C08.17 Global Change and Human Mobility, C12.10 Gender and geography

3B Collaboration with other International and Inter-disciplinary Groupings, 2008-12
The existing collaborations (e.g. with the International Population Geographies Conference series, Population Geography Research Group of the RGS-IBG) will be maintained. Prof. Etienne Piguet (chair) was also involved as Review Editor in IPCC 5th assessment report.
3C Collaboration with ISSC and ICSU 2008-12
No direct collaboration

4. Publications
4A. Newsletters, Special journal issues and Books

Newsletter
The Commission has produced at least one and sometimes three electronic Newsletters each year. All Newsletters are available on the website.

Books
The commission see his task as mainly a conference organizer where researcher can meet and discuss results before publication in scientific journals. The commission is not directly involved in publication activities.

Journals
Members of the steering committee are all very active in advisory board of among the best journals in population geography where they also publish regularly.

5 Archival Contributions
The content of Newsletters are archived on the website. Copies are always sent to IGU secretary general upon publication.

CONTINUATION 2016-2020

6A Name: “Commission on Population Geography” (no change)

6B Commission’s Mission, 2016-20
The commission’s overall aim will remain unchanged; it is to enhance understanding of population issues from the perspective of research undertaken by geographers. During the period 2016-20 the commission intends to foster population research through organising conferences and workshops of interest to geographers across human and social geography and those outside the sub-discipline who are interested in population, space and place. While nurturing research across the full breadth of population geography, the specific mission of the commission over the next four years is to engage in greater depth on 3 interrelated themes: ‘Population and migration’, ‘Population and Vulnerability’ and ‘Population and Difference’. The commission also wish to go on addressing the issue of Spatial Population Data.
6C Proposed List of Steering Committee Members, 2016-20

Professor Etienne Piguet  
(Chair)  
Institut de Géographie  
Université de Neuchâtel  
2000 Neuchâtel  
Switzerland  
Tel.: +41-32-7181919  
etienne.piguet@unine.ch

Professor Jianfa Shen  
(Vice-Chair)  
Department of Geography and Resource Management  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Shatin, N.T.  
Hong Kong  
Tel.: +852-3943-6469  
jianfa@cuhk.edu.hk

Professor Nikola Sander  
(Secretary)  
Faculty of Spatial Science  
University of Groningen  
Postbus 800  
9700 AV Groningen  
The Netherlands  
Tel.: +31 50 363 8666  
N.D.Sander@rug.nl

Professor Martin Bell  
School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management  
The University of Queensland  
Brisbane Qld 4072  
Australia  
Tel.: +61-7-336-56455  
martin.bell@uq.edu.au

Prof. Charlotta Hedberg  
Department of Geography  
Umeå universitet  
Samhällsvetarhuset Plan 3  
901 87 Umeå - Sweden  
Tel.: +46 90 786 56 02  
charlotta.hedberg@umu.se

Dr. Pierre Kamdem  
MIMDEL  
Migrations Interna., Mondialisation et Développement Local  
Université de Dschang  
Cameroon  
Tel.: +237 94 58 38 02 / + 336 33 18 30 10  
pierre.kamdem@yahoo.fr

Prof. Patrick Sakdapolrak  
Department of Geography and Regional Research  
University of Vienna  
Universitätsstraße 7/5  
1010 Vienna  
Austria  
Tel: ++43-1-4277-48730  
patrick.sakdapolrak@univie.ac.at

Dr. Papa Sakho,  
Géographe / Enseignant-chercheur  
IPDSR/FLSH, Campus BRGM, BP 45550 Dakar-Fann  
Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar  
Sénégal  
Tel. +221338254001  
papa.sakho@ucad.edu.sn

Professor Darren Smith  
Professor of Geography  
Department of Geography  
Martin Hall Building  
East Park  
Loughborough University  
Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, UK  
Tel.: +44 (0)1509 222745  
D.P.Smith@lboro.ac.uk

Prof. Rainer Wehrhahn  
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel  
Geographisches Institut  
Ludewig-Meyn-Str. 14
6D Summary of the work plan 2016-2020

The commission has succeeded in the 2 main tasks mentioned in the previous quadrennial report:

- Enlargement of the commission membership
- Inclusion of new members from the global south (including in the steering committee)

The commission will pursue its efforts to organize and co-organize numerous sessions in IGU regional conferences and congresses. During the previous period it organized about 6 sessions in each IGU conference. We are confident that this rhythm can be maintained in the future.

The commission will also continue to sponsor and co-organize other events with scientific partners around the world.