

IGU Report 2012-2016

Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy

Chairs: Cosimo PALAGIANO (IGU) since 2011, Paulo DE MENEZES (ICA) since 2011 (Working Group)/2015 (Commission), Peter JORDAN (common IGU/ICA vice-chair) since 2015

Note on status: After having been evaluated, the Commission was by the ICA General Assembly held during the 27th International Cartographic Conference, Rio de Janeiro, 23-28 August, elevated from a working group to the rank of commission also on ICA side. Peter JORDAN was by the two commission chairs and with the consent of the IGU and ICA chairs nominated common vice-chair of the Joint IGU/ICA Commission.

1. Membership

A. Complete list of members and corresponding members

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B. The Commission had by 31 December 2015 8 full (steering board) members from 8 countries and 103 corresponding members from 36 countries.

C. www.igu-icatoponymy.org

2. Meetings

A. Meetings organized during 2012-2016 with summary information on their locations, dates, and numbers of participants.

(1) In the framework of the 32nd International Geographical Congress, Cologne [Köln], Germany, 26-30 August 2012 a toponymic session titled “Place names as markers and

ingredients of space-related identity” with 4 panels a total of 12 papers had been organized by Peter JORDAN (Austria). Paper presenters were (in alphabetical order): Brahim ATOUI (Algeria), Remus CREȚAN (Romania), Naima FRIHA (Tunisia, 2 papers), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Enrica LEMMI & Monica Siena TANGHERONI (Italy), Marina MARASOVIĆ-ALUJEVIĆ & Katarina LOZIĆ KNEZOVIĆ (Croatia), Phil MATTHEWS (New Zealand), Joan Carles MEMBRADO TENA (Spain), Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Peter RAPER (South Africa), Ana RESENDE (Brazil) and Bogusław ZAGÓRSKI (Poland).

- (2) In the framework of the **IGU Regional Conference Kyoto, Japan, 4-9 August 2013** a session on geographical approaches to toponymy with 4 panels and a total of 14 papers had been organized by Kohei WATANABE (Japan). Paper presenters were (in the sequence of presentation) Cosimo PALAGIANO, Silvia SINISCALCHI (both Italy), Riemer REINSMA (Netherlands), Satoshi IMAZATO (Japan), Emilio NIETO BALLESTER, José Antonio RODRÍGUEZ ESTEBAN & Pilar LACASTA REOVO (Spain), Gerry UTAMA (Indonesia), Stanislav YERDAVLETOV, Abdreeva SHOLPAN & Gulzhan AIZHOLOVA (Kazakhstan), Andrew WILSON, Lisa ROBINSON (both United States), Wenchuan HUANG (Taiwan), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Sungjae CHOO, Sun-Bae KIM (both Republic of Korea) and Hiroshi TANABE & Kohei WATANABE (Japan). A selection of 8 papers has been published in the geographical journal *Semestrale di Studi e Ricerche di Geografia*, Rome, XXV, 2, edited by Riccardo MORRI.
- (3) **Seminar “Historical maps, atlas maps, and toponymy”, Leipzig, Germany, 21-23 August 2013:** As a pre-conference event of ICC Dresden three ICA commissions/working groups, i.e. the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography (chair: Elri LIEBENBERG, South Africa), the ICA Commission on Atlases (chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria) and the IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy (chair: Paulo DE MENEZES, Brazil) in co-operation with the Leibniz Institute of Regional Research [Leibniz Institut für Länderkunde, IfL] Leipzig, met in the facilities of this Institute in Leipzig. The seminar saw 40 registered participants and 17 paper presentations. Papers on toponymy were presented (in the sequence of presentation) by Peter JORDAN (Austria), Ernst SPIESS (Switzerland), Alexander WOLODTSCHENKO (Germany), Yaïves FERLAND (Canada), Stephan FUCHS (Germany), János JENEY (Hungary/Germany), Ferjan ORMELING (Netherlands), Christopher BOARD (United Kingdom), Matjaž GERŠIČ & Drago KLADNIK (Slovenia), Paulo de MENEZES (Brazil) and Lindsay Frederick BRAUN (United States). The proceedings will be published open access by the host institute as a volume of its book series “forum IfL”.
- (4) In the framework of the **26th International Cartographic Conference (ICC) Dresden, Germany, 26-30 August 2013** a session with 2 panels had been organized by the Commission/WG and in total 6 papers on toponymy were presented.
- (5) In the framework of the **4th EuGeo Congress Rome, 5-7 September 2013** a panel on toponyms had been organized by Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy) and saw 5 papers presented.
- (6) In the framework of the **IGU Regional Conference Cracow, Poland, 18-22 August 2014** a session on geographical approaches to toponymy with 5 panels and a total of 19 papers had been organized by Peter JORDAN (Austria): **Session 1 (Cultural-geographical approaches):** papers presented by P. MÁCHA (Czechia), Y. FERLAND (Canada), M. SOLARZ, K. JANAS (both Poland); **Session 2 (Naming motives, place names as keys to culture and cultural history):** papers presented by P. RAPER (South Africa), S. CHI, S. CHOO & H. KIM (Republic of Korea), J. TORT I DONADA (Spain); **Session 3 (Names in urban space):** papers presented by C. PALAGIANO (Italy), D. DROZDZEWSKI (Australia), W. HUANG, P. KANG (both Taiwan); **Session 4 (Naming policies and place-name use):** papers presented by P. JORDAN & O. STUMMVOLL (Austria), S. PAIKKALA (Finland), M. DHIEB (Tunisia), A. HERZEN (Russian Federation); **Session 5 (Field collection of names and names on maps):** papers presented by Y. MILENINA & A. DOMARANSKIY (Ukraine),

B. ZAGÓRSKI (Poland), R. REINSMA (Netherlands), H. SUNG, J. KIM, H. KIM & W. LEE (Republic of Korea).

- (7) **Symposium on place-name changes, Rome, Italy, 17-18 November 2014:** The symposium had jointly been organized with the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (the Italian Academy of Sciences) and took place in its headquarter, the Villa Farnesina. It saw 53 registered participants and 40 paper presentations. It was organized by Peter JORDAN (Austria) and Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy). The papers in the sequence of their presentation: **Session 1 (General approaches, methodology):** P. WOODMAN (United Kingdom), J. TORT I DONADA (Spain), P. MÁCHA (Czechia), R. REINSMA (Netherlands), P. TÁTRAI & Á. ERŐSS (Hungary), R. STANI-FERTL (Austria), E. CAFFARELLI (Italy), J.-L. VAXELAIRE (Belgium); **Session 2 (Country studies):** C. PALAGIANO, L. CASSI, E. POLI (all Italy), M.D. GORDÓN PERAL & St. RUHSTALLER (Spain), M. MANDOLA (France/Poland), F. ORMELING (Netherlands), P.A. WEENINK (Netherlands), B. SUDIŢU, I. NICOLAE & C. BUTEREZ (Romania), P. DE MENEZES (Brazil), H. RAGHOEBAR (Suriname), E. CALVARIN (France); **Session 3 (Regional studies):** L. FEDERZONI, F. LUCCHESI & M. GRAVA, F. ZAN (all Italy), S. YI (Republic of Korea); **Session 4 (Place-name changes in urban space):** G. AMIOTTI, M. MALVASI, G.P. SCARATTI, T. BANINI (all Italy), M. GERŠIČ & D. Kladnik (Slovenia), Zs. BARTOS-ELEKES (Romania), W. HUANG (Taiwan), St. NYSTRÖM, M. WAHLBERG (both Sweden), A. BEKKOUCHE (Algeria), Th. DU PLESSIS, J.-M. STEENKAMP & Th. DU PLESSIS (both South Africa), A. COLLAZO ALLEN (Switzerland); **Session 5 (Multicultural situations):** Á. ERŐSS & P. TÁTRAI (Hungary), J. BENEDEK, R. RUSU (both Romania), I. CRLJENKO & I. ZUPANC (Croatia); **Session 6 (The impact of specific historical events on place-name changes):** G. LUCARNO (Italy), B. ATOUÏ (Algeria), P. KANG (Taiwan), P. JORDAN (Austria). Proceedings were published in January 2016 as Volume 5 of the toponymic book series *Name & Place*, edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN, financed by Peter JORDAN.
- (8) In the framework of the **IGU Regional Conference, Moscow [Moskva], 17-22 August 2015**, a session without a specific thematic focus with 10 papers took place. The local organizer was Andrey HERZEN (Russian Federation). The papers were presented by (in the sequence of presentation) Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Ruth AGHEYEVYA (Russian Federation), Riemer REINSMA (Netherlands), Peter RAPER (South Africa), Natalia ALEXEENKO & Svetlana MIKAHEEVA, Tatiana SOKOLOVA, Dominique BADORIOTTI (all Russian Federation), Jack KEILO (France), Tomasz WITES (Poland) and Andrey HERZEN (Russian Federation).
- (9) As a pre-conference event of ICC Rio de Janeiro a **Symposium on Atlases, Toponymy and the History of Cartography, Rio de Janeiro, 20-21 August 2015** was organized jointly with the ICA Commission on Atlases (chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria) and the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography (chair: Elri LIEBENBERG, South Africa) as well as the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), which hosted the event with Ana RESENDE (Brazil) as the main organizer. The symposium had a majority of Brazilian participants and Brazilian topics were predominantly featured. Papers on toponymy were presented by (in the sequence of presentation) Paulo DE MENEZES, Ana RESENDE et al. (both Brazil) and Yaïves FERLAND (Canada). Visits to the National Library and the Navy Museum completed the programme. Proceedings including a selection of papers presented are under elaboration, edited by Ana RESENDE on behalf of IBGE and with support of the Swiss Statistical Office.
- (10) In the framework of the **27th International Cartographic Conference, Rio de Janeiro, 23-28 August 2015**, two sessions with nominally 4 papers each took place, but just Yaïves FERLAND (Canada), J.M. YOUNG (United States), G.R. MOREIRA et al. (Brazil), A. REIMER (Netherlands), I. FARAGÓ & J. JENEJ (Hungary), Catherine DOMINGUES (France) and Teimo LESKINEN (Finland) presented.

- (11) In the framework of **EuGeo Budapest, 30 August – 2 September 2015**, a session with a focus on the role of place names in geographical education organized by Peter JORDAN (Austria) with 2 panels and 12 papers took place. Papers were presented by (in the sequence of presentation) Hein RAGHOEBAR (Suriname), Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Peter RAPER (South Africa), Ivana CRLJENKO & Ružica VUK (Croatia), Joan TORT I DONADA (Spain), Botolv HELLELAND (Norway), Wojciech WŁOSKOWICZ (Poland), Peter KANG (Taiwan), Zane CEKULA (Latvia), Isaeva EKATERINA (Canada) and Federica FRONDIZI et al. (Italy)
- (12) The Symposium **“Place names, diversity and heritage”, Clarens, Free State, South Africa, 17-18 September 2015** was jointly organized with the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment of the University of the Free State. Theodorus DU PLESSIS, Peter RAPER and Chrismi-Rinda LOTH (all South Africa) were the main local organizers. The symposium had 26 participants from 7 countries (South Africa 18, Zimbabwe and Slovenia 2 each, USA, Brazil, Italy and Austria 1 each). 19 papers were presented by (in the sequence of presentation) Peter RAPER, Barbara MEIRING (both South Africa), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Lucie MOELLER, Johann LUBBE (both South Africa), Matjaž GERŠIČ & Drago KLADNIK (Slovenia), Carol LOMBARD (USA), Burgert SENEKAL (South Africa), Tendai MANGENA & Prosper MUZAMBI (Zimbabwe), Johan Lodewyk MARAIS & Christa MORRISON, Adrian KOOPMAN (all South Africa), Kizito MUCHEMWA (Zimbabwe), Bertie NEETHLING, Joan STEENKAMP & Theodorus DU PLESSIS, Theodorus DU PLESSIS (all South Africa), Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Paulo DE MENEZES (Brazil), Corrie GELDENHUYS and Sibusiso NTULI (both South Africa). Trueman KUBHEKA (South Africa) gave a dinner speech. Proceedings will be published as a special issue of *Nomina Africana*, the peer-reviewed South African names journal, edited by Lucie MOELLER and Peter RAPER

B. New ideas and insights identified and their theoretical and practical implications:

Place names have always been studied by several disciplines and for diverse reasons. Until recently, however, they were approached predominantly as "windows into the past". Research in these areas has been very productive and continues to be developed by a number of investigators. In recent years, however, we can observe an important development in place names research across social sciences, namely in anthropology and geography that represents a break with the past. Rather, the new approaches emphasize the contemporaneity of place names (while not ignoring their historical roots) and study them in relation to the political constitution, and contestation of place, landscape, and identity.

Initial propositions of these new perspectives on place names have been put forth by Yi-Fu TUAN within geography and Keith BASSO in cultural anthropology. Both argue that naming is a very fundamental social and existential practice whereby people establish their relationship with the space they occupy. TUAN showed that human spatial perception is structured by language, place names playing an important role in our perception and representation of the environment. BASSO specified place naming as a way of writing/making history and relating to the world at a very fundamental, existential level, place names being closely tied to our identity.

However, there is yet another dimension to place names – power. We are not, and never have been, in equal positions to name places, individually or collectively. Place names may constitute cultural heritage and may be important for establishing and reproducing social identities, but they are also loaded with emotions, alternative interpretations and contested histories and as such they are not politically innocent. As TUAN shows, they must be understood in the context of the present relations of power, which (strive to) reproduce themselves in space by various material and non-material practices, one of them being place names.

It is precisely this focus on the politics of place naming that the so-called “critical toponymy” has developed. Critical toponymy is a lively current within contemporary place-name research that critically examines the relationship between toponymy and power. It analyzes ways, in which political regimes and movements use place names to claim territories, erase linguistic traces of original populations, gain political legitimacy, delegitimize other political forces, naturalize certain versions of history and silence dissent.

This is the conceptual basis from which our Commission departs and the framework within which aspects have further been elaborated in all our sessions and symposia, thus developing a young and promising branch of our science further.

A major achievement are certainly the proceedings of the symposium on place-name changes in Rome, November 2014. **Place-name changes** are clearly indicating the symbolic role of place names as markers of geographical features, territories and space-related identities. The book as a result of our considerations shows that at any time the replacement of the dominant political or cultural force within a given society can result in place-name changes, but that the commercialisation of our societies also has its impact on toponymy. New commercial names replace traditional ones, prompting the question whether place names should perhaps be regarded as a part of the cultural heritage and be protected for this very reason. Sometimes it is also the prestige of a name not necessarily ‘commercial’ in the narrow sense that counts, and makes the inhabitants of a street or urban quarter vote for it.

Upheavals of the namescape are certainly caused by a change of dominant political forces. But the emergence of new official names, e.g., due to standardization and public recognition of place names of indigenous and non-dominant groups, can also result from new cultural directions and attitudes in a given and otherwise stable society – when for example strong efforts are made to codify the languages of indigenous peoples and to display their place names subsequently in public space.

The book addresses all these aspects. It also shows how place-name changes are received and accepted by the users, i.e. the local community and the outside world. It frequently occurs that the old and the new name remain in use simultaneously for some time – the use differing by age groups, political directions, or between ‘insiders’ and people from the outside. Reception of a new name can also be affected by the motivation for the name change or by its historical and political background and appropriateness.

Besides the major theme of place-name changes the Commission has also discussed new aspects related to the **public representation place names of non-dominant groups** and what this means for them as well as of the **endonyms/exonym divide** and their correlation with the sociological concepts of “ours” and “theirs”.

C. Meetings or other events planned for 2016 or later

- (1) **29th UNGEGN Session, Bangkok, 25-29 April 2016:** Presentation of the Commission in a side event.
- (2) **IGU Congress, Beijing, 21-25 August 2016:** Commission session titled “Place names as social constructs”. So far about 10 abstracts submitted.
- (3) **Regional Pan-American Symposium on Toponymy; in co-operation with PAIGH, IBGE and ICSU Americas, Rio de Janeiro, 15 – 17 March, 2017.** Main topic not yet defined.

- (4) **Pre-conference symposium of ICC Washington D.C. jointly with the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, 29-30 June 2017.** Main topic not yet defined.
- (5) **International Cartographic Conference, Washington D.C., 2-7 July 2017:** The ICA/IGU Commission will have its usual toponymic sessions.
- (6) **Symposium “Place names, diversity and heritage”, Windhoek, Namibia, 18-20 September 2017** locally organized by the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment of the University of the Free State.
- (7) **IGU Regional Conference, Quebec, 6-10 August 2018:** The ICA/IGU Commission will organize a session.
- (8) **International Cartographic Conference, Tokyo, 1-5 July 2019:** The ICA/IGU Commission will have its usual toponymic sessions.

3. Networking and communication

- A. **Collaboration with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces in the period 2012-2016** (in our case also with ICA Commissions, since we are a joint IGU/ICA Commission)

ICA History of Cartography Commission, ICA Commission on Atlases

The Seminar “**Historical maps, atlas maps, and toponymy**”, Leipzig, Germany, 21-23 August 2013 was jointly organized with the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography (chair: Elri LIEBENBERG, South Africa) and the ICA Commission on Atlases (chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria).

The **Symposium on Atlases, Toponymy and the History of Cartography, Rio de Janeiro, 20-21 August 2015** was jointly organized with the ICA Commission on Atlases (chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria) and the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography (chair: Elri LIEBENBERG, South Africa)

- B. **Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary institutions**

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

The Commission reports regularly in the UNGEGN Bulletin about its activities (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/bulletin.html>) and held a presentation in every UNGEGN session since 2012. Peter JORDAN, Commission vice-chair, is long-term head of the Austrian delegation to UNGEGN and United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and since 2006 Convenor of the Working Group on Exonyms, one of 10 UNGEGN working groups. Cosimo PALAGIANO and Paulo DE MENEZES, the two Commission chairs, participate as IGU and ICA observers in UNGEGN sessions. Also the Steering Committee members Sungjae CHOO, Ferjan ORMELING and Peter RAPER are closely related to UNGEGN: Sungjae CHOO is the Convenor the UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, Ferjan ORMELING the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy and UNGEGN vice-chair, and Peter RAPER is a past UNGEGN chair. It is not too much to say that co-operation between the Commission and UNGEGN is basic and that the two have complementary functions: while UNGEGN focuses on standardization issues and is

multidisciplinary (including linguists and historians), the Commission promotes research in the fields of geography and cartography.

International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)

Peter JORDAN is ICOS member and organized the Section “Onomastics and Geography” at the 24th ICOS Congress in Barcelona, Spain, 2011. Many ICOS members participate in Commission sessions and symposia.

International Cartographic Association (ICA)

It is evident that the Commission links IGU and ICA. It is the image of self of the Commission not to be composed of two branches, but to combine the two sciences and to combine forces for joint efforts.

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

Nothing to report.

4. Publications

Newsletters, special journal issues, and books published or anticipated during the 2012-2016 period (provide complete citations for all publications).

Proceedings published

- (1) *Semestrare di Studi e Ricerche di Geografia*, XXV, 2, Roma 2013: special issue including toponymy papers presented at the IGU Regional Conference Kyoto, Japan, 4-9 August 2013. (<http://www.semestrare-geografia.org/index.php/sdg/issue/view/3>)
- (2) Peter JORDAN, Paul WOODMAN (eds.) (2016), *Place-Name Changes. Proceedings of the Symposium in Rome, 17-18 November 2014* (= Name & Place, 5). Hamburg, Dr. Kovač, 492 p. ISBN 978-3-8300-8423-5. (<http://www.verlagdrkovac.de/978-3-8300-8423-5.htm>)

Proceedings in elaboration:

Seminar “Historical maps, atlas maps, and toponymy”, Leipzig, Germany, 21-23 August 2013: to be published as a volume of the book series “Forum IfL” available open access, edited by Jana MOSER on behalf of the Leipzig Institute of Regional Geography.

Symposium on Atlases, Toponymy and the History of Cartography, Rio de Janeiro, 20-21 August 2015: to be published as an individual book, edited by Ana RESENDE on behalf of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the Swiss Statistical Office.

Symposium “Place names, diversity and heritage”, Clarens, Free State, South Africa, 17-18 September 2015: to be published as a special issue of *Nomina Africana*, the peer-reviewed South African names journal, edited by Lucie MOELLER and Peter RAPER.

5. Archival Contributions

Materials and publications transmitted to the IGU archives to the IGU by your commission. Soft copies of all newsletters, monographs, special journal issues, *etc.* should be sent to me at mmeadows@mweb.co.za as they become available. Hard copies should be lodged with the archivist, details as follows: Dr. Bruno Schelhaas, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Archiv für Geographie, Schongauerstr. 9, 04328 Leipzig, Germany (www.ifl-leipzig.de).

The book “Peter JORDAN, Paul WOODMAN (eds.) (2016), *Place-Name Changes. Proceedings of the Symposium in Rome, 17-18 November 2014* (= Name & Place, 5). Hamburg, Dr. Kovač, 492 p. ISBN 978-3-8300-8423-5“ will in March 2016 be handed over to Dr. Bruno Schelhaas.

6. Continuation

Assuming you and your colleagues in commission wish to continue your work, the final section of your report should include a proposal that specifically addresses:

A. The name of the Commission/Task Force, or new name if it is the view of your steering committee that it is to be changed.

No name change demanded.

B. A concise (100-200 words) statement of the mission of the Commission/Task Force.

The United Nations recognised the significance of geographical names standardization as early as 1960, when it established an expert group in this field (the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, UNGEGN) – one of just six active permanent expert United Nations groups. Many countries have also recognised the subject’s significance by establishing national or regional boards on geographical names. Within the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), too, toponomastics is attracting increasing interest, as indeed it is within the basic disciplines involved in onomastic research, especially linguistics, cartography and geography.

It is certainly an advantage of UNGEGN and ICOS to be organized in multidisciplinary way and to facilitate in this way interdisciplinary discussions and work. But it also makes sense to have a toponomastic forum within IGU and ICA to encourage engagement of geographers and cartographers, resp., in this field. Geographers are able to contribute a lot to research into questions like the role of place names for space-related identity building or as mediators between communities and place. For cartographers certainly the role and function of place names on maps is in the focus of research interests. Thus, a toponomastic forum within IGU and ICA creates an added value compared to UNGEGN and ICOS.

C. Individuals who will comprise the steering committee from 2016-2020

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D. Work plan for the Commission/Task Force for the 2016-2020 period.

Flagship project

Establishing a geographical names consortium of several universities, where according to a common curriculum approved by the Commission and with lecturers (among others) from the Commission courses in toponymy are offered. This project evolves from an idea and initiative of Peter RAPER and Theodorus DU PLESSIS (both South Africa) and is to start with some universities in South Africa and later to spread to other countries and continents. This project conforms to the task “to disseminate the scientific knowledge on processing and use of toponyms within geography and cartography” in the Commission’s terms of reference. It has been initiated also with the consent and kind support of the convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, Ferjan ORMELING, and will complement UNGEGN courses, which will also be continued.

Research agenda for geographers and cartographers

(1) Functions of place names on maps

(2) Rendering of place names on maps: e.g. When to use endonyms, when exonyms? Script conversion. Which features are to be named?

- (3) Name placement on maps:** e.g. Selection principles, when space is rare? Does every map feature need a name? Does lettering distort content density perception?
- (4) Principles for creating new place names:** e.g. with commercial naming, street names, commemorative naming in general.
- (5) Place names as expression of time- or space-related identity:** e.g. Why do they have this function? What do they indicate? What do they mean for non-dominant groups? What does this mean for legal regulations? What is the meaning of the endonym/exonym divide in this context?
- (6) Place name/feature relation:** e.g. Up to where has a name endonym status? Can sea names be endonyms?
- (7) Motives for place naming:** e.g. Cultural background of the name-giving community? Synchronic and diachronic diversity of naming motives? What do place names tell us about name-giving communities? Transparent and opaque names. Motives of our times: commercialisation versus preservation of the cultural heritage. Place-name changes and their driving forces?
- (8) Place names and administration:** e.g. Administrative competences for place names? Street names as a case in point. Street naming in multilingual urban quarters. Naming when administrative units (municipalities, districts) are merged. Treatment of place names of non-dominant and indigenous groups. Place-name boards and committees of all administrative levels and their responsibilities.
- (9) Place names and transportation:** e.g. Naming on road signposts, naming in the railway system, naming in air transportation.
- (10) Place-name conflicts:** e.g. What do place-name conflicts indicate? Backgrounds and reasons of current conflicts. Best practice in solving place-name conflicts.

Mission according to ICA statutes

- To act jointly with IGU fostering the geographic and cartographic research on all fields involving toponymy;
- to disseminate the scientific knowledge on processing and use of toponyms within geography and cartography;
- to verify the use of other sciences' toponymy concepts, such as anthropology, linguistics and others, in favour of cartography and geography;
- to maintain contacts and scientific exchange with UNGEGN and ICOS, such as by organizing joint events;
- to support and encourage the elaboration and publication of gazetteers, toponymic data files and toponymic reference systems (such as EuroGeoNames);
- to organize regional joint IGU/ICA events (workshops, symposia and others) with IGU and ICA members;
- to participate in IGU and ICA Regional and Main Conferences;
- to organize and maintain a website to facilitate contact between researchers in the field of toponymy and disseminate source material and literature available to the community and the general public alike;
- to organize and publish books, chapters and encourage paper publishing in specialized journals and the International Journal of Cartography.