



International Geographical Union – Union Géographique Internationale

Commission on Marginalization, Globalization and
Regional and Local Responses C16.29

COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

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<http://www.igu-marginality.info/>

WELCOME

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

2016 has come to an end, and with it the time of office of our steering committee. It is with great pleasure that we learnt that the IGU has given us the go-ahead for another four years as a commission. It will be now chaired by Professor Steve Déry of Laval University, Québec, supported by a totally new steering committee.

I wish Steve a good start in his new position.

We would really appreciate if we would get more information from our members therefore I would like to encourage you once more to share with us any news relevant for the purpose of our commission.

The basic information about our commission is included in this newsletter, which you can also find together with much more on our website: <http://www.igu-marginality.info/>.

Stanko Pelc

stanko.pelc@pef.upr.si

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce this Newsletter. First of all, I would like to thank very much our colleagues Stanko Pelc from the University of Primorska, Slovenia, for his work as Chair since 2012, and Walter Leimgruber, professor emeritus at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, who has done and is still doing a wonderful job as secretary of our Commission.

Last year (2016) has seen several positive and negative events but maybe the election of Donald Trump as new president of the United States might be one with drastic consequences on marginalization processes that we are studying all over the world. In the La Paz conference (see below) to be held in April 2017, the members of our Commission will examine more closely among other things how peace can contribute to the demarginalization of some populations, in a virtuous circle. Conversely, the absence of peace constitutes an aggravating factor of marginalization. Certainly, there are reasons to worry now that the weight of the United States in our globalized world will contribute to intensify some of the marginalization processes even further. Given the first objective of our Commission – see below –, I fear that this situation represents a big challenge for us as it increases our individual and collective responsibilities to shed new lights on these processes.

On a more positive note, I want to end this welcoming address with many thanks to the eight new members of our steering committee who have accepted to take up this challenge and with whom I am looking forward to work during the next four years: Firuza Begham Binti Mustafa, Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, Ruth Kark, Daichi Kohmoto, Kenneth Matengu, Toivo Muilu, Catherine Robinson, Claudio Urrea Coletti. Have a wonderful year 2017 !

Steve Déry

Hanoi, 11 January 2017

OUR ACTIVITIES 2016

33rd IGC, Beijing

Our Commission met during the 33rd International Congress in Beijing and held three sessions (officially two, but the second had to be separated into two sessions) on August 23 and 24. Twelve papers were presented. The business meeting took place during the lunch break on August 23, just before the paper sessions. The congress was well organized, but our conference room was in a marginal (sic!) location, not well advertised, and not easy to find. We also spoke to Stefan Einarson, our contact person at Springer's, and the prospects for our publications look good.

Commission conference Slovenia

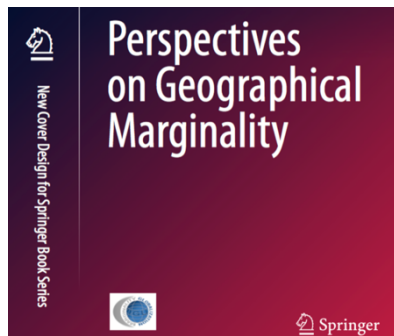
The second conference took place in Slovenia, organized by Stanko Pelc and Miha Koderman. The conference topic was Regional Development, Sustainability and Marginalization. All together there were 20 presentations, two of them long distance and two during the field trip. The conference started in Ljubljana, continued in Koper and ended in Maribor. Small group of participants from abroad therefore had a chance to see Alpine, Dinaric, Mediterranean and Pannonian part of Slovenia. The book of abstracts is available at: <http://www.hippocampus.si/ISBN/978-961-6984-33-1/mobile/index.html#p=22>. We intend to publish selected papers in Springer's third volume of the series *Perspectives on Geographical Marginality*.

2017 ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR 2018 AND FOLLOWING

The IGU General Assembly, upon proposal of the IGU Executive, allows us to continue as a commission with a renewed steering committee. The new Chair is Prof. Steve Déry (Université de Laval, Québec, Canada). We can therefore plan activities for the coming four years, which includes conferences and publications.

2017 commission conference: Thematic Conference, La Paz, 23-25 April

Our commission will hold its annual conference during the IGU Thematic Conference in La Paz, Bolivia (in collaboration with the University of La Paz, and preceding the XVI EGAL



- *Encuentro de Geografos de America Latina* – held at the same time – see the attached first circular). We have proposed a session entitled **Globalization as a source of marginalization; marginality as a source of tensions and conflicts**. The organizers have retained it as Session D.1. Until today we have received fifteen paper abstracts.

Details about the IGU conference are available on the conference website, <http://geographiesforpeace.org>

Plans for 2018 and afterwards

In the summer of 2018 a conference will be held during the IGU Regional conference hosted by the department of geography at Laval University in Quebec City (<https://www.ggr.ulaval.ca/igu-ugi-congres-regional-2018-quebec>). The main focus will be on the (de)marginalization of peripheries.

In 2019 and 2020 the themes and venues are being discussed, but we intend to devote more attention to the processes of (de)marginalization in the countries of Africa and SE Asia.

PUBLICATION MATTERS

Our cooperation with Springer is bearing fruit. The series *Perspectives on Geographical Marginality* (edited by Walter Leimgruber, Etienne Nel and Stanko Pelc) has started with two volumes containing a number of revised papers from the Nainital conference (2011). The first of these books has been published in June 2016. Edited by Raghbir Chand and Walter Leimgruber, it focuses on *Globalization and Climate Change in Mountain Regions of the World. Assets and Challenges in Marginal Regions*. (ISBN 978-3-319-32649-8).

The second volume edited by Raghbir Chand, Etienne Nel and Stanko Pelc has entered the publication process and will be available in 2017. Two more volumes are currently in preparation, and we are confident that we can carry on with this project.

The following publication has been signalled.

Gerhard Gustafsson: *A human geography testament*, Karlstad 2016, ISBN 978-91-7063-720-9. It can be obtained from the author or downloaded by using the following link: <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:kau:diva-46413>.

OTHER CONFERENCES

The following conferences have been brought to our attention:

5th UNESCO conference UNITWIN, **Culture, tourism and development**, Coimbra (Portugal), 18-22 April 2017. Details on <http://UNITWIN2017.uc.pt/>

RSA Annual Conference 2017, **The Great Regional Awakening: New Directions**, Dublin, Ireland, 4-7 June 2017

RSA Central & Eastern European Conference 2017, **Regional Polarisation and Unequal Development in CEE: Challenges for Innovative Space-based Policies**, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 10-13th September, 2017

OBITUARY

In July we learnt that our long-term member Bradley Cullen has passed away on June 4 at the age of 65. Bradley has for many years been a faithful participant in our conferences. As professor at the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of New Mexico (Albuquerque) he organized a successful conference in his university with a field trip to Santa Fé and the pueblo of Taos on June 21-26, 1999. We remember Brad as a creative contributor to our work and a jolly friend and colleague, always wearing a hat, even during paper presentations.

ADMINISTRATION

Call for information feedback

I would like to continue our tradition of inviting the submission of details of relevant conferences, workshops and publications from Commission members as well as conference reports, lecture courses, seminars etc. on the topic of marginality and marginal regions. I think this does serve as a very useful form of knowledge exchange. Please furnish details to our secretary.

IGU Web Page

Commission members are encouraged to visit the web pages of the IGU (<http://www.igu-online.org/site>) to learn more about the activities of the IGU, including details of conferences, procedures and publications. A further source of information is the homepage of the Home of Geography in Rome (www.homeofgeography.org).

Commission Web Page

Please consult also our own website (<http://www.igu-marginality.info/>) for any information needed. Our Commission chair 2012-2016, Prof. Stanko Pelc, has agreed to continue to run it. You are therefore also encouraged to furnish any relevant information

to the webmaster (stanko.pelc@pef.upr.si) as well as to our secretary (walter.leimgruber@unifr.ch).

A CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE MISSION OF THE COMMISSION 2016-2020

The mission of the Commission is to research marginality and the processes of marginalization from different perspectives and with a geographical basis. The main focus is to better understand multiscale relations between the globalization process and how marginality evolves at the local and regional levels. Moreover, we seek to improve our understanding of local and regional responses to different forms of marginality and marginalization processes.

The commission intends to continue to follow the objectives that were in its focus already in this period, that is:

- 1. To further the understanding of marginality and the processes of marginalization in our globalized world, through the study and analysis of the forces responsible for the dynamics and structures of spatial marginality at various scales. They will include, among others, issues of technology, gender, social structure and the environment.*
- 2. To analyze marginality as the result of human perceptions and decisions, leading to the understanding of the role of the various agents in those processes, and their response to prevailing conditions.*
- 3. To develop comparative approaches in order to identify various types of marginality and to put them into perspective and assess their role in an increasingly globalized world. Emphasis in particular needs to be placed on the experience of the South. To study policy/institutional/community responses to economic and societal problems in marginal regions at various scales in relation to local, regional and societal development, and to study human responses to global change, including their implications for marginalization.*
- 4. To study policy/institutional/community responses to economic and societal problems in marginal regions at various scales in relation to local, regional and societal development, and to study human responses to global change, including their implications for marginalization.*

The use and development of appropriate theory and methodology is to be involved in each of the above.

STEERING COMMITTEE 2016-2020

Chair

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Commission Secretary

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YOUR ADDRESS UPDATE:

Please help us to keep the address list updated by communicating your new address, phone and fax number and e-mail address to me (Steve.Dery@ggr.ulaval.ca) and to our secretary (walter.leimgruber@unifr.ch).

APOLOGY

I apologize that this newsletter was not sent out before Christmas, as planned, but arrives a few weeks late. This is due to a nasty cold that prevented me (Walter) from taking care of most of my tasks, and to the move of our chair (Steve Déry) to Hanoi (Vietnam) for a research leave that absorbed him beyond expectations.