COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

CONTENTS

Welcome
Our activities 2016
  • IGU Congress Beijing 2016
  • Slovenia 2016 C12.29 annual conference
Plans for 2017 and afterwards
Publication matters
Other conferences
Administration
  • Call for information feedback
  • IGU Web Page
  • Commission Web Page
A concise statement of the mission of the Commission 2016-2020
Steering committee 2016-2020

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

University of Primorska, Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia
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 Urra 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 - Encuentre 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 Raghubir 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 Raghubir 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.


OTHER CONFERENCES

The following conferences have been brought to our attention:


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
Prof. Steve Déry, Université Laval, Département de géographie, 2405, rue de la Terrasse, Québec, QUÉBEC, Canada, G1V 0A6
Phone: 1-418-656-2131 poste 5107, E-mail: Steve.Dery@ggr.ulaval.ca
**Steering committee members**

| Dr. Firuza Begham Binti Mustafa, Senior Lecturer  
Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
University of Malaya  
50603 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia  
Phone: 79675536  
E-mail: firuza@um.edu.my | Prof. Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš  
University of Zagreb  
Faculty of Science, Department of Geography  
Marulićev trg 19/II, 10000 Zagreb  
Croatia  
Web: [www.pmf.unizg.hr/geog/bornafuerst-bjelis](http://www.pmf.unizg.hr/geog/bornafuerst-bjelis)  
Phone: +385 1 4895 428  
E-mail: bornafb@geog.pmf.hr |
| --- | --- |
| Prof. Ruth Kark  
Department of Geography Faculty of Social Sciences  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905, Israel  
Telephone Home: 972-2-643-4820  
Fax: 972-2-643-4820  
E-mail: mskark@mscc.huji.ac.il | Prof. Daichi Kohmoto, Associate Professor of Geography  
Nara University of Education, Takabatake-cho, Nara, 630-8528 Japan  
E-mail: daichizu@gmail.com |
| Prof. Dr. Kenneth Matengu, Pro-Vice Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Development  
University of Namibia,  
340 Mandume Ndemufayo Ave Pionierspark, Windhoek, Namibia  
Phone: +264 61 206 3944  
Fax: +264 61 242644  
E-mail: kmatengu@unam.na | Dr. Toivo Muilu  
Natural Resources Institute Finland (professor)  
Department of Geography (adjunct professor)  
Po Box 413  
FI-90014 University of Oulu  
Finland  
Phone: +358 29 532 6722  
E-mail: toivo.muilu@luke.fi |
| Dr. Catherine Robinson, adjunct associate professor  
University of Queensland, Brisbane St Lucia, QLD 4072, Australia  
Phone: +61 7 3365 1111  
E-mail: Catherine.Robinson@csiro.au | Prof. Claudio Urra Coletti  
Instituto de Geografía  
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras  
Universidad Nacional de Cuyo  
Mendoza – Argentina  
Phone:  
E-mail: urra73@gmail.com |

**Commission Secretary**  
Prof. Emeritus Walter Leimgruber, Université de Fribourg, Département de Géosciences, Unité de Géographie, Chemin du Musée 4, CH-1700 Fribourg, Switzerland  
Phone: ++41 26 300 90 10, private ++41 (0)26 402 83 02  
Fax: ++41 26 300 96 47  
E-mail: walter.leimgruber@unifr.ch
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.