

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION (IGU) IGU COMMISSION GEOGRAPHY OF GOVERNANCE (C16.12) NEWSLETTER 1/2017 January-June

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1. INTRODUCTION

Dear colleagues,

This is the first Newsletter published by the new Steering Committee (2016-2020). It reports the activities developed by the Commission in the first semester of 2017 and the plan for the coming months. The Commission planned and organized conferences and workshops, designed new online communications tools, built a digital online archive, and started the process for the renewal of its membership / corresponding members. The new online communication tools, intended to support the work of the Commission, include a new website, an electronic mailing list and a blog. In this context, a digital online archive of past activities and publications is being developed as part of the Commission website. The list of corresponding members is being updated. In this process we aim to increase the proportion of younger members and to reach a more balanced membership according to gender and region of the world. The establishment of a directory of corresponding members is being prepared and is expected to be launched in early 2018. As the following sections of this Newsletter show, the Commission members have been actively engaged in the organization of conferences and workshops. It is expected the publication of a selection of the papers presented in these meetings. Recent publications by members of the Steering Committee, related to the core subject of the Commission and mostly based on past activities of the Commission, are listed below in section 7.



Commission on Geography of Governance

NEWSLETTER
C16.12 - Geography
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January - June
2017

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Our main activity in 2017 will be our Annual Conference, to be held next October in the University of Salento, Lecce, Italy, focused on the theme "Local Governance in the New Urban Agenda". The Annual Conference will also be an opportunity for a meeting of the Steering Committee with other members of the commission.

For 2018 it is being planned, among others, the following activities: sessions organised by the Commission in the IGU Regional Conference in Canada and our 2018 Annual Conference, to be held in Portugal, which will mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of our Commission in 1988 ('Geography and Public Administration' 1988-2000; 'Geography and Public Policy' 2000-2008; 'Geography of Governance' 2008-...) after an initial term as an IGU Study Group (1984-1988).

The IGU Commission Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG) will continue to issue its Newsletter twice a year (June and December) to inform members about its activities. It will be distributed by email and will be posted in the Commission website.

I look forward to meeting you in Lecce, Italy, next October.

Carlos Nunes Silva

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2. STEERING COMMITTEE, AIMS, THEMES: 2016-2020

2.1 Steering Committee

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2.2 Aims

1. To advance knowledge of the geography of territorial governance, at the urban, local and regional levels, namely the conditions, scale and characteristics of new modes of territorial governance, and its social, cultural, political, economic and environmental consequences.
2. To identify new perspectives and to explore new research methodologies and different geographical approaches in the field of urban, local and regional governance.

3. To provide a platform for the exchange of information, research outcomes, and best practices among its members.
4. To enhance current bilateral and multilateral research cooperation among its members and to support the creation of new research networks in the field of urban, local and regional governance, connecting its members with existing international research programs and organizations, increasing interdisciplinary research collaboration across disciplines.
5. To support and promote the publication and dissemination of scholarly research outcomes of its members, in peer-reviewed international journals and in books.
6. To advance educational activities through workshops focused on urban, local and regional governance issues, contributing to the training of the next generation of scientists in this field.
7. To increase the awareness of urban, local and regional governance issues among citizens, local communities and governments.
8. To develop initiatives focused on specific issues in cooperation with members of other IGU Commissions sharing similar or related interests.

2.3 Themes

The Commission aims to explore, but is not limited to, the following themes:

1. Administrative decentralization and multi-layered governance
2. Local and regional government / governance
3. Urban and metropolitan governance
4. Local and regional government reforms
5. Administrative fragmentation and merger reforms
6. Decentralized cooperation and development
7. Inter-municipal cooperation
8. Cross-border municipal and regional cooperation
9. Governance of spatial planning processes
10. Governance of complex environmental systems
11. Governance in conflict and post-conflict areas
12. Citizen participation in local and regional government
13. Age-, disabled- and gender-responsive approaches in urban, local and regional government policies
14. Administrative systems and local public service delivery
15. Local government finance systems
16. Local Government, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Habitat-III New Urban Agenda
17. Anthropocene: changes and challenges for urban, local and regional governance

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18. The use of ICTs in urban, local and regional governance: e-Government, e-Governance and Citizen e-Participation
19. Transparency, accountability and good governance in local and regional government
20. Big Data and new digital research methods in urban governance

3. ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES

During the period reported in the Newsletter the following activities have been developed:

- 3.1 New online communication tools
- 3.2 Digital Archive
- 3.3 Activity Plan 2017-2020
- 3.4 Membership
- 3.5 Organization of Conferences and other Meetings
- 3.6 Publications

3.1 New online communication tools. Implementation of new online communication tools to support the work of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance (a new website; an electronic forum and mailing-list; a blog focused on local governance issues);

- The IGU-CCoG Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/home>
- Mailing list: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/mailling-list>
- Blog: <http://igugeogov.blogspot.pt/>

3.2 Digital Archive. The Digital Archive has currently five sessions (<https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/archive>): Archive - Past Steering Committees (1984-2016); Archive Newsletter (1984-2016); Archive - Past Conferences (1984-2016); Archive Publications (1987-2013); Archive Photogallery (2008-2016). The section focused on the first years of the Commission, including the first four years as an IGU Study Group (1984-1988), has been enriched with data available in the documents deposited over the years in the IGU Central Archive, now located in the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany. We will continue this archival work in the coming months. The "Introduction" note available in the Commission website in June 2017 (<https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/aims>) is reproduced as an Annex at the end of this Newsletter.

- The IGU-CCoG Digital Archive: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/archive>

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3.3 Activity Plan 2017-2020. Development of the activity plan for the period 2017-2020 (e.g., the Annual Conferences of our Commission in 2017 and in 2018; the sessions organized by the Commission in the IGU main meetings, as is the case of the IGU Regional Conference in Canada in 2018, or the IGU Thematic Conference in Russia in 2018; and other meetings or sessions convened and organized by members of the Steering Committee in numerous other International Conferences). More information on each of these conferences will be given in the following sections of this Newsletter.

3.4 Membership. The list of corresponding members is being updated and expanded gradually since January 2017. A Directory of corresponding members will be prepared during the second semester of 2017.

3.5 Organization of Conferences and other Meetings. As reported in the following sections of this Newsletter, the members of the Steering Committee have been very active, during the first semester of 2017, in the organization of scientific meetings focused on themes pertaining to the core subject of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance, as well in the planning and implementation of future meetings, as is the case of the 2017 Annual Conference of our Commission that will be held in Lecce, Italy, on October 19-21 2017.

3.6 Publications. Members of the Steering Committee published several books, chapters, articles, and book reviews on issues related to the core subject of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance.

4. IGU-CGOG 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**IGU-CGOG 2017 Annual Conference "*Local Governance in the New Urban Agenda*",
Lecce, Italy, October 19-21 2017**

The 2017 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance (IGU-GoG), convened by Anna Trono (Department of Cultural Heritage, University of Salento, Italy, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee) and Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance), is organized in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Heritage, University of Salento, and will be held in Lecce, Italy, 19 - 21 October 2017. The Conference aims to explore and to discuss the changes, challenges and opportunities confronting Local Governance

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in the context of the new urban paradigm associated with the HABITAT III New Urban Agenda, a 20-year strategy for sustainable urbanization, adopted in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. Considering the commitments for action associated with this new urban paradigm, the Conference aims to address, but is not limited to, the following issues: (a) The role of local government in the definition and implementation of more inclusive, transparent, accountable, effective and transformational local policies for sustainable and resilient urban development; (b) Sustainable, people-centred, long-term, and integrated approaches to urban development; (c) New ways to plan, finance, govern, and manage cities and other non-urban / rural settlements; (d) Multi-stakeholder, multi-level institutional cooperation among all tiers of government. National urban policies and the changing role of sub-national government in urban development; (e) The roles of cities/city-regions within transnational / national planning and governance schemes; (f) Policy transfer across local and city-regional entities; (g) Global urban policy principles and local governance practices: correspondence and disjuncture; (h) Alternative visions and alternative models for local governance; (i) Climate change and the challenges for local governance; (j) The governance of smart, green and integrated urban transport; (l) Indicators for the governance of local sustainable development. The Conference will be an opportunity for inter-disciplinary discussions on a broad spectrum of innovative research within the field of the Geography of Local Governance. It is expected that a selection of conference papers will be published. More information on the conference is available at: <https://sites.google.com/site/geogov2017conference/home>
The next Newsletter will provide more detailed information about the Conference Program and publication outcomes.

5. OTHER CONFERENCES 2017

5.1 II International Conference "Urban e-Planning", Lisbon, Portugal, April 20-21 2017

The 2nd International Conference on Urban e-Planning, convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance), was organized by the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research' and by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, and was held in Lisbon, Portugal, 20-21 April 2017. The Conference was endorsed by the IGU Commission Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG). Following the successful first Conference in 2016, the 2017 Conference provided again a forum for the critical discussion of new perspectives, approaches, methods, and tools in the field of Urban e-Planning. As in the first

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conference, several IGU-CGoG members, members of the Steering Committee and corresponding members, participate actively in the conference. It was a good opportunity to raise awareness about the work of the IGU-CGoG. The 64 papers presented, by authors from 22 countries, addressed the following themes: The Governance and Planning of Smart Cities; Citizens e-Participation & Community Engagement; Collaborative Urban Planning: sharing, hactivism and social criticism; The inter-relatedness of real and virtual in Urban e-Planning. A selection of these papers will be published in the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research'. More information on the conference (program, abstracts, PowerPoint, etc.) is available at: <https://sites.google.com/site/uep2017conference/>

5.2 Forum on "History and Geography of Frontiers", Shanghai Open University, China, May 5-7 2017

Jiesheng Na (Center for Historical Geography, Fudan University, China, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee) was engaged in the organization of a Forum on History and Geography of Frontiers, with around 200 participants, held in the Shanghai Open University, China, on May 5-7 2017. Being essentially a national meeting in China it was an opportunity to further increase awareness about the work of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance in this country.

5.3 NISPAcee Annual Conference, Kazan, Russian Federation, May 18-20 2017

The NISPAcee Annual Conference took place in Kazan, Russian Federation, 18-20 May 2017. The conference theme was "Innovation Governance in the Public Sector". Ilona Pálné Kovács (Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee) was a coordinator (together with Michiel de Vries) of the Working Group on Local Governments (www.nispa.org/conference2017). The selected papers will be published online and in the Journal of NISPAcee.

5.4 11th Slovak-Czech-Polish Seminarium - "Flows, Spaces and Societies in Central Europe" - Trenčianske Teplice, Slovakia, June 14-16, 2017

Members of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG) were engaged in the organization of the 11th Slovak-Czech-Polish Seminarium - "Flows, Spaces and Societies in Central Europe", that took place in Trenčianske Teplice, Slovakia, on June 14-16, 2017, namely Jan Bucek (Department of Human Geography and Demography, Comenius University, Slovakia, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee). Jan Bucek was member of the Conference Scientific

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Committee and chair of the Plenary Opening Session. With more than 130 participants from Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland, the conference included papers by corresponding members of the IGU-CGoG, as well as by members of the Steering Committee, namely Jan Bucek and Tomasz Kaczmarek:

- Ján Buček & Mária Frassová (Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia) - "Councils in City Quarters – Overlooked Opportunity to Strengthen Citizens' Participation and Local Democracy in Slovak cities"
- Tomasz Kaczmarek (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland) - "Soft planning for soft spaces. A case study of Poznań metropolitan area"

The detailed program (PDF, 10 pages) and the Book of Abstracts (PDF, 96 pages) are available from the conference website for free download. More information on this conference is available at: <http://www.humannageografia.sk/seminarium2017/>

5.5 7th Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM), Stockholm, Sweden, June 18–21 2017

The Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM) is a biennial international geography conference. The 7th Meeting was in Stockholm, Sweden, June 18–21 2017. The conference theme was "Geographies of inequalities". Peter Schmitt (Stockholm University, Sweden, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee) and Lukas Smas (Nordregio) organised a session at the Nordic Geographers Meeting, Stockholm 18th – 21st June 2017 under the theme: "Is there a Nordic 'planning culture'? Exploring commonalities and differences in times of growing complexity and inequalities". For more information, see:

- Conference website: <http://www.humangeo.su.se/english/ngm-2017>
- Download program and abstracts of this session (pdf): <https://stockholmuniversity.app.box.com/s/ytx50soalqxe5p3zndir66rrvoz7gqeo>

5.6 Conference "Modern Methods and Tools for Public Participation in Urban Planning", Poznań – Obrzycko, Poland, June 22-24, 2017

The Conference "Modern Methods and Tools for Public Participation in Urban Planning" took place in Poznań – Obrzycko (Poland), on June 22-24, 2017. It was organized by the Metropolitan Research Center Adam Mickiewicz University and by the Association for Spatial Planning Space Economy Society Poland. Members of the IGU Commission 'Geography of Governance' (IGU-CGoG) were engaged in the organization of this conference/symposium, namely Tomasz Kaczmarek (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee). The focus of the symposium was on spatially-explicit methods of public participation drawing from developments in P/PGIS, VGI, Geoweb, and Geodesign.

The symposium showcased various applications of methods in participatory urban planning featuring state-of-knowledge paper and poster sessions, discussion panels, and tool demos. The symposium offered an opportunity for scholars to critically discuss methodological underpinnings of geographically-explicit participatory methods in urban planning and share their experiences with applications in realistic planning settings. The format of the symposium with fewer papers than at many larger conferences provided an ample time for meaningful discussion and offered an opportunity to foster future research collaborations. The conference had 40 participants including, among others, the following speakers: Prof. Peter Nijkamp, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Prof. Marketta Kyttä, Aalto University, Finland; Prof. Thomas Blaschke, University of Salzburg, Austria; Prof. Michele Campagna, University of Cagliari, Italy; Prof. Muki Haklay, University College London, Great Britain; Prof. Piotr Jankowski, San Diego State University, USA & Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland; Prof. Tomasz Kaczmarek, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland; Prof. Ana Clara Mourão Moura, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil; Prof. Waldemar Ratajczak, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. More information on this conference is available at: <http://ppgis2017.pl/>

6. FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, 2017-2020

6.1 II International Conference "African Urban Planning", Lisbon, Portugal, September 7 - 8 2017

The 2nd International Conference on African Urban Planning, convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance), will be held on 7-8 September 2017, in Lisbon, Portugal, in the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning - University of Lisbon, in collaboration with the International Planning History Society. This conference is endorsed by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance and will be an opportunity to expand the work of the Commission by engaging colleagues based in the African continent, in North Africa as well as in Sub-Saharan Africa. Besides being convened by the Chair of the IGU-CGoG, other members of the Commission are expected to participate in the conference. It will be a forum for the discussion of the state-of-the-art of research on African Urban Planning, namely on urban/local governance in Africa, four years after the first conference in 2013. The Conference will bring together researchers and planners from academia, public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations, in an effort to present and debate their research on African Urban Planning and to share knowledge, viewpoints, methods, research outcomes and policy ideas. It is expected that around 180 papers will be presented with

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participants coming from 30 countries, of which a significant number are from Africa. The conference will focus four main themes, all of them highly relevant for the mission of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance. The four main themes are:

- Theme 1 - The History of African Urban Planning
- Theme 2 - Learning from African Urban Planning
- Theme 3 - Localizing Goal 11 of the SDGs and The New Urban Agenda
- Theme 4 - Social and economic challenges and changes in African cities

More information on the conference is available at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/cpcup2017conference/home>

The next Newsletter will provide more detailed information about the Conference Program and publication outcomes.

6.2 IGU-CGoG 2017 Annual Conference - "Local Governance in the New Urban Agenda" - Lecce, Italy, October 20-21 2017

As has been usual, the annual conference of our commission is its most important activity every year. In 2017, the Annual Conference is focused on the theme "Local Governance in the New Urban Agenda" and will be held in Lecce, Italy, on 20-21 October. For more information, see point 4.

6.3 XI IGU Seminar on 'Environment And Sustainable Livelihood', Guwahati, East Himalaya, India, February 8-10 2018

The IGU Commission Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG) will held a session on "Sustainable Development and Local Governance" in the XI IGU Seminar on 'Environment And Sustainable Livelihood', Guwahati, India. The IGU-CGoG session will be included under the conference sub-theme "Sustainable Development: Governance, Policies and Conflicts". Prof. R. B. Singh (Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India, and Vice-President of the International Geographical Union) will chair our Commission session in XI IGU Seminar on 'Environment And Sustainable Livelihood'. The aim of this session on 'Sustainable Development and Local Governance' is to explore the changes and the new challenges confronting local governance due to the current environmental changes, namely those associated with climate change. It will be an opportunity for discussions on a broad spectrum of innovative research on the relations between environmental changes and local governance. The session aims to address, but is not limited to, the following issues: (a) The role of local government in the definition and implementation of more effective local policies for sustainable local and regional development; (b) Environmental policy transfer across local and

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regional governments; (c) Global Environmental Policy and Local Governance Practices; (d) Climate change and the challenges for local governance; (e) The local governance of biodiversity; (f) Local governance in mountain regions; (g) The use of ICT in local environmental governance: citizen e-participation, crowdsourcing, volunteered geographic information, landscape virtual 3D modelling. It is expected that a selection of this session papers will be published in an edited volume. It is also being considered the publication of a selection of papers on the topic of 'ICT in Local Environmental Governance' in the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research'. The selected manuscripts will be double-blind peer-reviewed.

Participants intending to present a paper for this session on "Sustainable Development and Local Governance" are requested to send the abstracts (not exceeding 300 words) to the Joint Convener of the 'XI IGU Seminar on 'Environment and Sustainable Livelihood', starting 1st August up to 31st October 2017. Information on deadlines, contact information and other requirements regarding the conference organization are available in the conference website: <http://iguguwahati2018.org/> More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

6.4 III International Conference 'Urban e-Planning', Lisbon, Portugal, 3-4 April 2018

The III International Conference 'Urban e-Planning', convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance) will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, in April 3 - 4 2018. The program includes themes pertaining to the core subject of the IGU-CGoG. It is expected the participation of several corresponding members of the Commission, as happened in the first two editions. The conference website is: <https://sites.google.com/site/uep2018conference/> More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

6.5 26th NISPAcee Annual Conference - "Public Administration for Well-being and Growth" - Iasi, Romania, May 24 -26 2018

The 26th NISPAcee Annual Conference - "Public Administration for Well-being and Growth" - will be held in Iasi, Romania, on May 24 -26 2018. The event is organised in cooperation with the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi. Ilona Plané Kovacs (Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee) will convene /organize/coordinate a session focused on themes

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pertaining to the core subject of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG). More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

6.6 IGU Thematic Conference "Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges", Moscow, Russia, June 4-6 2018

The IGU Thematic Conference "Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges", 4-6 June 2018, Moscow, Russia, organized by the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), will be held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union and is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), the largest geographical research organization in Russia. The conference will be held in the buildings of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow's historical center near the Moskva-river. For more information on this Conference, see:

<http://www.igras.ru/100igras/en/>. The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG) will propose a session on "Local Governance for Local Development: Opportunities and Limitations" (working title), which will be chaired by Olga Glezer (Geographical Institute, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia, and member of the Steering Committee of the IGU-CGoG). If interested to take part in the session organized by the IGU-CGoG, please contact us (igu.geogov@gmail.com). The submission of our proposal will be made before November 1, 2017. More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

6.7 AESOP 2018 Congress, Gothenburg, Sweden, July 10-14 2018

Peter Schmitt (Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, Sweden, and member of the Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance) will propose a panel discussion (or round table discussion) with other members of the Steering Committee on a topic closely related to the work of the IGU-CGoG in the next AESOP Congress (Association of European Schools of Planning), to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in July 10-14 2018. More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

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6.8 IGU Regional Conference, Quebec City, Canada, August 6-10 2018

The next regional meeting of the IGU will be held in Quebec City from August 6 to 10 2018. The theme of the 2018 IGU Regional Conference is "Appreciating Difference / Apprécier la différence" (<http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/>). The call for organized sessions will be sent out by the organization of the IGU Regional Conference in September 1, 2017 and the call for individual papers in October 1, 2017. The IGU Commission Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG) will develop and submit its proposal for a session focused on the theme "Appreciating Difference" as it relates to our Commission core subjects. Our Canadian colleague, Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph, Canada), corresponding member of the IGU-CGoG, accepted our invitation to act as our liaison with the 2018 IGU Regional Conference Committee. More information will be provided in the next Newsletter and will be available in the Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

6.9 IGU Commission Geography of Governance - 2018 Annual Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 4 - 5 September 2018

The 2018 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance will be convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance). It will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, in 4 - 5 September 2018. The conference will mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Commission in 1988 after an initial period as an IGU Study Group (1984-1988). More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

6.10 World Social Science Forum 2018 - Fukuoka, Japan, September 25-28 2018

Yosuke Maeda (Faculty of Education, Niigata University, Japan, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee) will lead a proposal, on behalf of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG), for a session in the "World Social Science Forum 2018", that will take place in Fukuoka, Japan, September 25-28, 2018. The Forum is hosted by Kyushu University, supported by Science Council of Japan and by Japan Science and Technology Agency. For more information on the Forum, see the Forum website: <http://www.wssf2018.org/index.html>

The proposal being prepared by our Commission will be focused on theme 6 ('Development and inclusion in urban and rural areas') and will be submitted before September 1. More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website:

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6.11 Conference "Historical Geography of Ethnic Groups in China", China, 2018

Jiesheng Na (Center for Historical Geography, Fudan University, China, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee) will organize in China, in 2018, a Conference on the "Historical Geography of Ethnic Groups in China". More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

6.12 Workshop on "The Centralisation turn in Local Governance", Pécs, Hungary, Spring 2019

Ilona Plané Kovacs (Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary, and member of the IGU-CGoG Steering Committee) will convene / organize a Workshop on the theme "The Centralisation turn in Local Governance", in Pécs, Hungary, in the Spring 2019, focused on the local government reforms implemented in the last decades. More information will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017) and will be available in the Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/>

6.13 Conference and Workshop in Africa, South America, and Australia/New Zealand, 2018 - 2019

We aim to organize a conference or workshop in Africa (North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa), in South America, and in Australia/New Zealand in 2018 or 2019. More information on this initiative will be provided in the next Newsletter (December 2017).

6.14 34th International Geographical Congress, 2020

The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance intends to be present, as has been usual, in all IGU World Congresses. The Commission will discuss in due time the form of its participation in the 34th International Geographical Congress in 2020.

7. PUBLICATIONS

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8. ANNEX

(In: IGU CGoG website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/aims>)

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, 2016-2020

I. Introduction

The [International Geographical Union \(IGU\)](#) is an international, non-governmental, professional organization devoted to the development of the discipline of Geography. The IGU was formally established in Brussels in 1922. Its instruments are its National Committees (101, in 2016), Commissions (38, in 2016) and Task Forces (3, in 2016).

In 1984, the International Geographical Union established a Study Group under the title 'Geography and Public Administration', which was then used as the preliminary status before a Commission could be launched. It was replaced in 1988 by a Commission on 'Geography and Public Administration'. Since then, the Commission was renamed twice to reflect new issues and perspectives on the relation between territory and public administration. In 2000 became 'Commission on Geography and Public Policy' and in 2008 adopted its current title 'Commission on Geography of Governance'.

An important aspect of the initial period (1984-1988) was participation of Commission members in early debates about restructuring of local and regional government in the central European countries then dominated by the Soviet bloc. Two of the main meetings held in this period dealt with specific aspects of Poland and Hungary, and the wider debates in other Central European countries. Catalan regionalism and separatism also became a very live issue, with the Commission holding a meeting in Barcelona specifically to engage in the debate. A feature of the Commission's activities was collaboration with other organisations, such as the Academy of Sciences in Budapest and in Warsaw, and with the Institute of Catalan Studies in Barcelona. An important partnership was a collaboration with the sister organisation of IGU, the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS). Robert Bennett represented the IGU Group at an IIAS meeting in Berlin in 1984 just prior to the launch of the IGU Commission (Study Group). This founded collaboration with a Study Group of IIAS on L'Aménagement du Territoire (The management of territory), formed mainly of lawyers and administrative scientists, who were also centred on Central European reforms. As well as its own IGU Commission publications, collaboration with the IIAS produced a key publication in 1988: L'Aménagement du Territoire et les Pouvoirs Locaux et Régionaux face aux

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Mutations Economiques (Regional Planning and Local Government confronted with Economic Change), ed. Gerard Marcou (University of Lille). This was interdisciplinary with members of the IIAS, with 5 of the 11 chapters written by IGU members. In February 1988, at the end of the Commission's first four years, a path-breaking meeting was held in Washington D.C. jointly with the US Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and taking place in the Indian Treaty Room of the White House.

The Study Group formally became a Commission at the IGU Congress in 1988 in Sydney. A key feature of the period 1988-1992 continue to be restructuring of local and regional governmental in the central European countries. In the build-up to the removal of the Berlin Wall in 1990, and its aftermath, the Commission took an active role in many activities to implement new laws and reforms in countries now freed from limitations on open debate. One of its members, Jerzy Regulski became the minister for Local Government reform in Poland; other members in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Russia became politicians, or were active as advisors and consultants. It was a dramatic period of change throughout central Europe in which the Commission played a small but important role. The Commission meeting in Moscow in September 1991 was uncertain, but did begin just as the siege of the Russian Parliament and Boris Yeltsin came to an end, with the parliament building surrounded by tanks. Collaboration continued with the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), and new collaborations developed. A major meeting sponsored by the United Nations University (and others) took place in Spain in 1991 that widened the IGU Commission's brief to developing countries, and also focused on the other key themes of the period of decentralisation geographically, and to markets, often focused on privatisation. The Commission over this period also diversified through many bilateral collaborations focused on developing expertise in the new regimes of Central Europe. Key exchanges occurred with Amsterdam (through Petr Dostál) and the London School of Economics (through Robert Bennett) to help colleagues in Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, Warsaw and other centres to access library resources and advice to develop new curricula for students, and to re-equip their teaching and library resources.

The third four-year period (1992-1996) of the Commission maintained a close focus on Central European developments, but also now added routine sessions at the major annual conferences of Geographical bodies in many countries, especially the USA. There was also diversification of the Commission's interests into wider concepts of governance taking debates further into understanding how partner bodies operated with formal government administration in different contexts.



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Commission members meet now regularly at its annual conference, held in different parts of the world, and during the sessions or panels organized within the program of the major IGU Congresses and Conferences. Field trips to study and discuss local issues has also been held as part of some of its annual conferences.

The Commission has been highly active during its first three decades of existence, holding numerous sessions in all IGU major congresses and conferences, in addition to its own annual thematic conferences. The Commission facilitates the exchange of research outcomes, experiences and perspectives on local and regional governance issues in different contexts around the world. One of the outcomes of this joint work is the publication of several books and edited collections of selected papers in peer-reviewed international journals, namely in 'Environment & Planning C: Government and Policy', 'GeoJournal', Acta Universitatis Carolinae / Geographica, Bulletin de la Société Languedocienne de Géographie, and in the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research'.

The Commission publishes a Newsletter twice a year, which is sent by e-mail to all its members. The Newsletter informs about its past and future activities, and provides information on meetings organized worldwide by national or local groups of geographers focused on local and regional governance issues. The Commission has its own website, a blog and an electronic mailing-list focused on issues of urban, local and regional governance.

An archive of its past activities (1988-2016) is available in the website.

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