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Lisbon, 1 December 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

The IGU Commission 'Geography of Governance' publishes two Newsletters every year, the first in June and the second in December. Newsletter 1/2020 reports the activities developed during the first semester (January-June 2020) and presents the activity plan for the following months. This second Newsletter (July-December 2020) reports the activity in the second semester and presents the consolidated report of all activities developed during 2020 and the updated activity plan for the following annual period. This is the first Newsletter of the new term (August 2020 - August 2024).

A proposal for the continuation of the Commission was submitted to the IGU Executive Committee on 30 May 2020. Formal final decision by the IGU was taken in the IGU General Assembly, in August 2020, which took place in online/virtual format due to the Pandemic. The new code of the Commission is now C20.15. We see the renewal of the Commission for a 10th term, after 36 years of existence, as the outcome of the continued and fruitful work of its members over the years.

In the term that ended in August 2020, the Commission held Conferences in five continents (34 meetings in total, in 4 years). The Commission organized 28 international meetings in 2017-2018-2019, as described in the Commission Annual Reports submitted to the IGU Executive Committee and published in the Commission Newsletters. Six meetings planned for 2020 were postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. The 28 meetings referred include, among others, the 3 Commission Annual Conferences (2017-Italy; 2018-Portugal; 2019-Cape Verde); organization of sessions/panels in the IGU Thematic Conference in Moscow (2017), in the IGU Regional Conference in Quebec (2018); organization of an International Workshop in Hungary (2019); organization of panels in the NZGS/IAG Conference (2018) in New Zealand, in the WSSF - World Social Science Forum in Japan (2018), in the AAG Annual Meeting in Washington, USA (2019), and sessions or panels in several other international conferences as described in the annual reports and newsletters.

The publication portfolio of its members include case studies in five continents (98 publications in total, in 4 years). The list includes 16 books, most of them published in major international publishers (Springer; Routledge; Palgrave Macmillan; Ashgate; IGI Global); 12 book chapters; 27 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, most of them indexed in Scopus and in Web of Science; 6 conference reports dealing with the main meetings organized by the commission; 13 book reviews published in international journals indexed in Scopus and in Web of Science;
24 conference presentations in international conferences. The details have been described in the 2017, 2018, and 2019 reports and Newsletters submitted every year to the IGU Secretary General.

In the normal and regular renewal process of the Steering Committee, required by the IGU statutes, Bríd Quinn, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Limerick, Ireland, and Jiesheng Na, Center for Historical Geography, Fudan University, China, had to be replaced in the Steering Committee. We are all grateful for the participation and continued collaboration of Bríd Quinn and Jiesheng Na in the Committee. Jan Bucek, past chair of the Commission (2008-2016), is now Honorary member of the Steering Committee. Collaboration in the activities of the Commission Steering Committee will continue, now in a different role. The Steering Committee for 2020-2024 has three new members: Jeffrey McNeill, School of People, Environment and Planning, New Zealand; Nancy Odendaal, City and Regional Programme, School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Claudia Vicentelo, LAB ICT - Innovation, Cities and Technology Laboratory, Chile. We all welcome and thank the new members for being willing to volunteer their time and expertise to the Commission and to the IGU. For the first time there is gender parity in the 10 member Steering Committee, which has now members from all continents.

The aims and research themes to be addressed by the Commission in the period 2020-2024 have been updated, reflecting the changes experienced in recent years in the field of local and urban governance and the more recent challenges associated with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The online communication tools, intended to support the work of the Commission - the website, the electronic mailing list and the blog - have been used regularly for the dissemination of information. The digital online archive of past activities and publications continued to be updated. The directory of corresponding members did not expand this year as much as anticipated due to the cancelation of our in-person meetings. We expect new adherents during 2021 as activities resume to normal.

For the current term (2020-2024), the Commission plans to hold 4 annual conferences. In 2021 the Annual Conference will take place in Poland (June 2021). We plan to organize some of the following Annual Conferences and Workshops in other regions of the world. The Commission organizes 8+1 sessions in the 34th International Geographical Congress in Istanbul (August 2021). The Commission organizes 4 sessions in the IGU Thematic Conference on Geographies of Heritage in Italy (May 2021). The Commission is one of the proponents of another IGU Thematic
Conference to be held in Mexico, tentatively in 2023. The Commission organizes 6 sessions in the AAG 2021 Annual Meeting as described below. The Commission will continue to be present and active through members of its Steering Committee in the organization of sessions/panels in major scientific conferences in five continents. We will continue to co-work with other IGU Commissions, as we have done in the 2 Thematic Conferences referred before. The commission will make use of webinars and online conference tools. Efforts will continue to be made to facilitate attendance of our conferences by members from developing countries. Thematic field excursions will continue to be organized in association with the commission meetings, being expected that at least one field excursion will take place every year.

The Commission will continue in the term 2020-2024 its already positive publication practices. Books, book chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles, book reviews, conference presentations will continue to be published, in English, on issues and topics pertaining to the subject of the Commission. We plan to publish the outcomes of the project 'Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic' through major international publishers. We expect to be able to organize book launch sessions of some of our publications within our conferences and in other major meetings as well. The commission encourages and supports the participation of non English native colleagues, namely those from developing countries, in its publications.

Several members of the Commission are expected to continue engaged in national and international organizations and networks, which will help enhance the visibility of the Commission.

During the period reported in both 2020 Newsletters, the activities of the Commission have been deeply affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Almost all in-person scientific meetings had to be cancelled and postponed to 2021. It was the case of the IGU Thematic Conference on "Heritage Geographies: Politics, Uses and Governance of the Past", in Lecce, Italy, in May-June 2020, as well as the 34th International Geographical Congress "Geography: bridging the continents", in Istanbul, Turkey, in August 2020. The proposal for an IGU Thematic Conference in 2021, in Mexico, on "Urban Governance: from Historical to Resilient Cities", jointly prepared and proposed by 6 IGU commissions (C16.37: Commission on Urban Geography 'Urban challenges in a global world'; C16.12: Commission on Geography of Governance; C16.14: Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change; C16.15: Commission on Geo-Heritage; C16.27: Commission on Latin
American Studies; C16.33: Commission on Population Geography) was cancelled and a new date in 2023 is now being considered.

Despite the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Commission continued to work actively, enhancing the debate on local and urban governance through its publication plan and by launching a collaborative research project on local government response towards the Covid-19 pandemic. The Commission has been indeed actively engaged on promoting the debate on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on local and urban governance, on a global scale, through this research project, and through the organization of virtual and in-person meetings, as described below.

We also continue strongly committed to maintain our successful publishing activity in spite of all the adversities related to the pandemic. The Springer book series on 'Local and Urban Governance', founded and edited by Carlos Nunes Silva, published its first books at the end of 2020, which include contributions by numerous members of the Commission, and more are being prepared. This positive response included also the publication of a special open access issue on Covid-19 in the International Journal of E-Planning Research, Working Papers, and the organization of a book to be published by Springer in 2021. These recent publications by members of the Steering Committee, related to the core subject of the Commission, are listed below.

As before, the Commission will consider and discuss proposals for possible collaboration and will continue its efforts to expand its activities to other regions of the world, alone or in collaboration with other IGU Commissions, as well as with organisations outside the IGU. In this context, the Commission will explore the possibility to hold future meetings also in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Oceania and South America.
2. STEERING COMMITTEE, AIMS, THEMES: 2020-2024

2.1 Steering Committee, 2020-2024

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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, in particular those that will emerge as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, 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, namely through digital tools.

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. Local government reforms
2. Urban and metropolitan governance
3. Local Government and the 2030 Agenda: 'localization' of the Sustainable Development Goals
5. Decentralization and multi-layered governance: new relations between national, regional and local government in the post-pandemic
6. Digitalization of local government and Citizen e-Participation
7. Governance of spatial planning processes
8. Citizen participation in local and regional government
9. Administrative fragmentation and merger reforms
10. Decentralized cooperation and development
11. Inter-municipal cooperation
12. Cross-border municipal and regional cooperation
13. Climate change, the governance of complex environmental systems and the challenges for local action
14. Age-, disabled-, minorities, and gender-responsive approaches in urban, local and regional government policies
15. Administrative systems, housing, health services, and local public service delivery
16. Local government finance systems
17. Anthropocene: changes and challenges for urban, local and regional governance
18. Governance in conflict and post-conflict areas
19. Transparency, accountability, good governance, and human rights 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 2/2020 the following activities have been developed:

3.1 Online communication tools
3.2 Digital Archive
3.3 Activity Plan 2021-2022
3.4 Membership
3.5 Organization of Conferences and other Meetings
3.6 Publications
3.7 Action Plan and Research Project focused on 'Local Government response towards the COVID-19 Pandemic'

3.1 Online communication tools. During the second semester of 2020 the online communication tools (website; electronic forum and mailing-list; blog) were updated and/or used for the dissemination of information.

- The IGU-CGoG Website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/home
- Mailing list: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/mailing-list
- Blog: http://igugeogov.blogspot.pt/

3.2 Digital Archive. The Digital Archive of the Commission has currently five sessions and is available online (https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/archive). At the end of the year the Commission will send, as is usual, to the IGU Central Archive, located in the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany, the documents (PDF) related to its activities in 2020.

3.3 Activity Plan 2021-2022. The activity plan for the period 2021-2022 includes a variety of initiatives (e.g., Commission meetings; sessions organized by the Commission in the IGU main meetings, as is the case of the IGU Thematic Conference in Lecce, Italy, in May-June 2021; the sessions in the 34th IGC in Istanbul, in August 2021; and the sessions in the 2001 AAG Annual Meeting; publications, and tentatively also joint research activities).

3.4 Membership. The list of corresponding members has been updated in 2020. As the recruitment is done mainly during the conferences the increase has been small during 2020 compared with past years.

3.5 Organization of Conferences and other Meetings. As reported in the following sections of this Newsletter, members of the Steering Committee have been active,
during 2020, 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 of other meetings in the following years. However, due to the restrictions to onsite meetings and international travels almost all these meetings had to be cancelled and postponed. Therefore, part of the activity during 2020 had to be rescheduled and previously planned meetings will take place in 2021 if the conditions allow it.

3.6 Publications. Members of the Steering Committee published books, chapters, articles, and book reviews on issues related to the core subject of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance. The list of recent publications is available below.

3.7 Action Plan and Research Project focused on 'Local Government response towards the COVID-19 Pandemic'. The IGU Commission launched, on 25 March 2020, a collaborative Action Plan and research project focused on the 'Local Government response towards the COVID-19 Pandemic' as described below in section 6 of this Newsletter.
4. CONFERENCES IN 2020

4.1 XXI April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development, Moscow, April 6-10, 2020. The conference was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2019.

4.2 The 5th International Conference 'Urban e-Planning', Lisbon, Portugal, 6-7 April 2020. The conference was cancelled and postponed to 2021 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2019 and the Commission website.

4.3 IGU Thematic Conference, Lecce, Italy, 29 May - 2 June 2020. The conference was cancelled and postponed to 2021 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2019 and the Commission website.

4.4 Quality Network for Sustainable Tourism – QNeST Project. Adrion Programme international workshop, Lecce, Italy, May 2020. The conference was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2019.

4.5 The 3rd World Conference of the Society for Urban Ecology - 'Cities as social and ecological systems', Poznań, Poland, 6-8 July 2020 - https://www.sure2020.org/ Workshop: "Cities between Sprawl and Compaction". The conference was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2019.

4.6 34th International Geographical Congress, 2020. The congress was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2019 and the Commission website.

4.7 Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference - “Metropolises in comparison” - The Metropolitan Institute (Gdańsk, Poland), 15 October 2020: http://im.edu.pl/konferencjametropolitalna/en/programme/ Participation of IGU CGoG members: Łukasz Mikuła, PhD (Faculty of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) - "English and German inspirations – the experience of Hanover and Manchester and building metropolitan management structures in Poland"; Prof. Tomasz Kaczmarek, PhD (Faculty of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University Metropolitan Research Centre in Poznań & member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee). Expert panel. Conference speakers included lawyers, administrators, political scientists, urban planners, sociologists and geographers, with the focus being on foreign organizational and functional models of metropolises, and more specifically on such issues as: the place of metropolises in
the administrative and political system, political relations between metropolises and government administration and local government, organizational form and internal system of the metropolis.

4.8 Conference 'Regional Scenarios in Hungary', November 2020. The Conference organised by CERS, HAS, took place on 09.11.2020. 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 engaged in the organization of the conference.


4.10 Webseminar on “Quality Network for Sustainable Tourism Network Project-QNeST” (ADRIATIC-IONIAN PROGRAMME INTERREG V-B TRANSNATIONAL 2014-2020 Axis II SO 2.1) - 14.12.2020, starting from 8.30am to 2.00pm (CET, Rome Time). Organized by the Department of Cultural Heritage - University of Salento, Lecce, Italy. Anna Trono (University of Salento, Lecce, Italy & member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee) is engaged in the organization of this webinar. The seminar aims to illustrate the project results, facilitating the interaction among the stakeholders through their interventions and multimedia presentations, highlighting the related themes and sub-themes of the project.

5. FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES: 2021-2022

5.1 - Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference “The modeling of metropolitan self-government”, The Metropolitan Institute (Gdańsk, Poland), 25-26 February 2021. Prof. Tomasz Kaczmarek (Faculty of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University Metropolitan Research Centre in Poznań & member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee) is member of the Scientific Council responsible for interdisciplinary scientific conference “The modeling of metropolitan self-government”, during which invited guests – scientists, experts and officials – will present the concepts of functionality of metropolitan government, including catalogs of public tasks or competences for their
implementation. All this is done in order to introduce new content to the scientific circulation and to provide the necessary knowledge to the legislator facing the necessity of reform. Programm: 25 February 2021, “Own tasks of the metropolitan government”; 26 February 2021, “Competences for the implementation of the metropolitan government’s own tasks”.

5.2 - AAG 2021 Annual Meeting - Seattle, USA - April 7 - 11, 2021

The IGU CGoG organizes 6 sessions under the title "Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses" (I to VI).

The session 'Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses' aims to examine and discuss the impact of the pandemic on central-local government relations and on local government policies, on public services, housing, social services, mobility, and spatial planning. It discusses the actions taken by local government towards the COVID-19 pandemic, and its outcomes and impacts, during the first and second waves of the pandemic, as well as lessons for the future. The session addresses various aspects of the role of local government during the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, as well the ongoing changes in local governance systems in this context, namely changes associated with the use new digital technologies. The sessions aim to discuss:
- What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions have been adopted by local government to control and shape the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic locally and what has been its impact on the effects of the pandemic?
- What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions have been adopted by local government to tackle the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, on society and on the local economy?
- What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions are local government employing to distribute resources and care among local populations, what cooperation with local community action networks and citizen initiatives during the pandemic?
- What changes have been introduced in central-local relations (decentralization / re-centralization), what innovations in multi-level governance have been tried to tackle more effectively the COVID-19 pandemic, what has been the role of inter-municipal cooperation and metropolitan government in this context, and what is being done through cross-border municipal and regional cooperation during the pandemic?
- What has been the role of technologies in local mobility, on remote work and education, and on surveillance through tracking and tracing the COVID-19 in urban areas?
- What local government strategies, policy measures, planning scenarios, and actions are being designed for the post COVID-19 crisis, namely towards building resilient, smart communities?

This session is associated with the Action Plan developed by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance - 'IGU-CGoG COVID-19 Action Plan' (for more information, see the commission website: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/home).

The provisional session program is available in the Annex 9.4 (below).

For more information see the IGU CGoG website:
https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/next-conferences

5.3 - IGU Commission Geography of Governance Annual Conference - June 2021

The 2021 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance on "New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity", organized by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geography of Governance, in collaboration with the Adam Mickiewicz University, will be held in Poznań, Poland, on 23-25 June 2021. The conference is convened by: Tomasz Kaczmarek, member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee and Professor in the Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, Adam Mickiewicz University, which also chairs the Conference Local Organization Commission; Paweł Churski, Dean of the Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, Adam Mickiewicz University; and Carlos Nunes Silva, Chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance.

The Conference aims to explore the nature and transformations of territorial governance in current times of uncertainty and complexity. As Zygmunt Bauman (born in Poznań, Polish sociologist and philosopher, one of the founders of the concept of postmodernism) wrote, we live in a time of ‘fluid reality’. It is manifested by the rapidly changing development paradigms and the individual’s sense of uncertainty in the face of complexity, fragmentation and episodic nature of everyday experience.

Local government and governance, urban policies and patterns of spatial change are of prime significance for the quality of life in human settlements. Public
management at the urban, local, metropolitan and regional level is close to the people and their needs, and at the same time is strongly dependent on national policies and, in the case of Europe, also on the policy of the European Union.

Various concepts and visions of the state clash in the world today, based either on neo-liberalism or on neo-populism or even post-democracy. They result from economic crises, political and ideological transformations, climate change, technological progress and recently also from pandemic threats. These concepts also affect the organization and functioning of local government, centralization and decentralization tendencies, and new forms of civic involvement and participation.

The Conference will be a forum for the discussion of the state-of-the-art of research on urban, local, metropolitan and regional governance, in the different regions of the world. It will bring together researchers from academia, public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations, in an effort to present and debate their research on urban, local, metropolitan and regional governance and to share knowledge, viewpoints, methods, research outcomes and policy ideas.

The Conference is organized in 5 tracks:

Track 1. Centralization and decentralization trends. Difficult paths of democracy
· Territorial-administrative reforms and their outcomes
· Changing relations between central government and local and regional authorities
· New forms of local democracy – public participation and citizens’ involvement

Track 2. Governance and planning
· Role of planning in shaping new spaces of territorial governance
· Planning visions and political agenda in local, regional and national governments
· Interplay between formal and informal planning institutions, procedures and documents

Track 3. Local governance and climate change
· Climate change adaptation and mitigation in local and regional policies
· Emerging governance networks in managing climate change
· The concept of urban resilience in local development strategies

Track 4. Impacts and challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic on local government
· Local government during a pandemic - reactions and actions
· Responses of local government to the pandemic threats and outcomes
· Reshaping of organization of public services in the pandemic time

Track 5. Uncertainty and complexity in territorial governance
· Long-term foresight and future scenarios for strategic development of territorial units
· Innovative institutional arrangements for complex challenges of local governance
· The financial situation of local and regional governments – trends and projections
Considering the uncertainty of the epidemiological evolution, 3 scenarios are being considered:
Scenario I. On-site/ In-Person /Stationary Conference
Scenario II. On-line Conference
Scenario III. Mixed On-site & On-line Conference

More information is available in the conference website:
https://sites.google.com/view/geogov2021/home. See also Annex 9.3 below.

5.4 IGU Thematic Conference, Lecce, Italy, May 2021

The next IGU Thematic Conference, to be held in Lecce, Italy, on 26 - 28 May 2021, is co-organised by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance and five other IGU Commissions. The Conference theme is "Heritage Geographies: Politics, Uses and Governance of the Past".

"Heritage is a complex idea. It is an ambiguous term to translate with its multiple meanings and layer integrating elements referring to the past, culture, memory, identity, conservation and also, regrettfully, conflict. Although heritage refers to the past, not everything from our past may enter into our heritage. Heritage is made only of what we want to remember. And what we do want others and future generations to remember about us. In this way, memories become the legacy, at times stylized, and for the most part selected and embellished. If we think about traditional cuisine as an intangible heritage, we do not want to eat everything that was consumed in the past, but only what in the food of the past we believe is worthy of being eaten. As regards physical heritage, we do not celebrate the narrow alleys full of mud and sewage of our historic urban centres, nor the smell, but we want to preserve just the houses and their walls, as if they were the shells of a different life. If heritage is selective, one of the big questions about heritage is the role of mediators. You can have a heritage from below or you need to have someone to help you understand what is important to pass on to your children about that past. Which institutions, then, must take on the role of creation/preservation of the heritage, and on what scale must they operate? What is the role of geo-parks, museums and ecomuseums, and what is the relationship between conservation activities, local institutions and society? Eventually, is it possible to talk about heritage from below? But heritage is not only selective; it can be controversial too, and even disputed. It is not just a question of culture, conservation and patrimonialization. It is an issue of power. “He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past”. This is not just a brilliant quote from George Orwell’s 1984. It is also a way for underlining the role of power in relation to the making of heritage. Because, those who controls the present, also controls the heritage. Because of its
political relevance, heritage can be built in a way that promotes a message of peace. Or, it may suggest feelings of hatred and claims of revenge. The management of controversial places of memory and heritage therefore has an important political meaning. Geographical names can also celebrate a past that you want to impose. Or forget. In some cases, there is a double toponymy, which on the one hand celebrates the unity of the nation-state and of the majority population, on the other hand recalls the cultural specificity of the territory. In others, there are names in two or three different languages. Yet in other places, tourism erases the traditional toponymy and imposes its own, more in tune with the happy image that you want to promote. For this reason, a thematic conference on the “geographies of the heritage” opens a broad debate, which can involve many of the voices that the IGU commissions may put together.»


The IGU Commission Geography of Governance proposed the following 4 sessions:

«Session 12. Local Government and the Governance of Urban Heritage (IGU Commission on Geography of Governance)  
Chairs: Carlos Nunes Silva (University of Lisbon) & Anna Trono (University of Salento)

This session aims to explore recent changes in the role of local government in the governance of urban cultural heritage. Papers can be focused on local government issues (institutional models, cooperation models, organizational and financial issues, etc.) in specific local case studies or may offer a comparison of policy cases in municipalities and cities in the same country or in different countries. The session aims also to examine and to discuss past policy approaches in the field of cultural heritage management at sub-national tiers of government. Although the focus is on local and urban government, the analysis should consider, when appropriate, the multi-level urban heritage governance context. The session is supported by the IGU Commission Geography of Governance and is proposed for sub-theme: 1. Heritage Governance.

Session 13. Citizen Participation in the Governance of Urban Heritage (IGU Commission on Geography of Governance)  
Chairs: Carlos Nunes Silva (University of Lisbon) & Anna Trono (University of Salento)
This session aims to explore the role and forms of citizen participation in the governance of Urban heritage. The session aims in particular to address citizen engagement in urban planning processes, namely in innovative models of urban planning and in alternative modes of urban heritage governance. The session is open to include case studies, comparative studies and historical analysis of citizen engagement in urban planning focused on cultural heritage. The session is supported by the IGU Commission Geography of Governance and is proposed for subtheme: 2. Heritage and Urban Planning.

**Session 14. Smart Governance and Urban Heritage (IGU Commission on Geography of Governance)**

*Chairs: Carlos Nunes Silva (University of Lisbon) & Anna Trono (University of Salento)*

This session aims to explore, discuss and present innovative theoretical and empirical research and ground-breaking approaches in the field of Urban e-Planning and its impact on the governance of Urban heritage. The session aims in particular to explore the impact of the growing number of digital innovations, new methods and new digital tools in the field smart governance of urban heritage. We welcome papers that address the current digital transition (digitization of urban governance and urban planning procedures, datafication of urban heritage activities and services, among other important changes) and its impact on the governance of urban heritage. The session is open to include case studies and comparative studies. The session is supported by the IGU Commission Geography of Governance and is proposed for sub-theme: 5. Heritage and ICT’s.

**Session 15. Urban Planning and Heritage (IGU Commission on Geography of Governance)**

*Chairs: Carlos Nunes Silva (University of Lisbon) & Anna Trono (University of Salento)*

The session aims to address how urban heritage is included and dealt with in the formal national spatial planning systems. In particular, the session seeks to explore institutional innovations in the field of Urban Planning related to the urban cultural heritage as well as the new tools employed by municipalities in the planning and governance of urban heritage. The session is open to include case studies as well as comparative studies. The session is supported by the IGU Commission Geography of Governance and is proposed for sub-theme: 2. Heritage and Urban Planning.

More information is available in the Commission website:
https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/home
5.5 - 34th International Geographical Congress, 2021

The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance participates with several sessions in the 34th International Geographical Congress "Geography: bridging the continents" to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 16 - 20 August 2021.

The IGU Commission Geography of Governance proposed the following 8 sessions:

Citizens participation in local government policies is now common practice in democratic and decentralized countries. Global Urban Agendas adopted by the United Nations in recent decades, focused on human settlements and on sustainable development, put citizens at the centre of the decision-making process, in particular at the local and urban scale. Besides the now common formal institutional frameworks in which citizen participation is embedded there are also informal frameworks through which citizens can act upon the policy process and decision making. This session seeks to be a forum in which these formal and informal citizen participation modes can be presented, discussed, and confronted. The use of ICT in citizen participation processes, i.e. models and practices of e-participation in local and urban policy settings, particularly in urban e-planning, will also be explored and discussed.

Session 2. Climate Policy and Local Governance
Climate change is a serious environmental and socio-political challenge, with impacts visible at both local and global levels. This challenge requires urgent action. Local government must take part and lead these crucial actions. This session aims to explore and to discuss how municipalities and other tiers of sub-national government are effectively responding to climate change. The session intends to address these issues through individual case studies or in comparative approaches. In particular, the session aims to explore the policy responses in the field of municipal spatial planning, buildings, energy, transport, waste, among other sectors.

Session 3. International Cooperation of Local and Regional Authorities
This session aims to explore and to discuss current trends, institutional models and challenges in the field of international cooperation of local and regional governments, in continental wide arrangements, as is the case in Europe and in Africa, but also in global networks of local authorities. The session intends to explore and to discuss the different modes of decentralized cooperation for sustainable development as well as the current practices of municipal / city twinning, its actions, impacts and challenges, namely in the context of the global agendas on sustainable development adopted in recent decades.
Session 4. Local Government Reforms: Decentralization V. Centralization
This session aims to explore and to discuss the current reforms of local government in different regions of the world, confronting recent cases of re-centralization with the more general trend towards decentralization. Among other issues, the session seeks to discuss the impacts of these reforms in the organizational, functional and financial autonomy of local government, in local policies - social, economic, environmental -, and on the capacity of local government to fulfil its role in the implementation of the UN Global Sustainable Development Agendas, such as the Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda.

Session 5. Metropolitan Governance: Trends, Models, Challenges
This session aims to explore and to discuss current trends, institutional models and challenges in the governance of metropolitan areas in different regions of the world. Besides the traditional institutional models of metropolitan government, applied in most of the metropolitan areas, new forms of governance of these large urban areas seem to be emerging. These changes need to be examined, compared with traditional models, and discussed in the context of the overall transformation of local and urban governance models. This session seeks to be a forum in which metropolitan government institutional models, metropolitan spatial planning and metropolitan policies - social, economic and environmental - are explored and discussed.

Session 6. Migrants and Refugees Democratic Rights in Local Governance
This session aims to explore and to discuss how local government policies have dealt with the rights of migrants and refugees in recent years, in Europe and in other regions of the world. The session intends to address these issues through individual case studies or in comparative approaches.

Session 7. Shrinking Cities, Expanding Metropolises, de Populated Villages: The Governance Responses
Cities losing population represent an important challenge for local government. The urban decline associated with the notion of shrinking cities affect numerous cities since the beginning of the 21st century, as a result of de-industrialization, socio-economic crisis and demographic transition. On the contrary, in other cities, within the same country, large metropolitan areas continue to expand. At the same time, in rural areas small villages continue to depopulate, which raises serious issues for the sustainability of these local communities. This session aims to explore and to discuss the responses of local government to these different processes, in particular the responses of the spatial planning system to these contrasted demographic processes.

Session 8. Spatial Justice and the Right to the City: The Role of Local Government
The announcement by the United Nations that in 2007, for the first time, the majority of the world’s population lived in urban areas, a trend expected to expand, and the
paradigm shift introduced by the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations in the Habitat-III Conference in 2016, in which urbanization and cities are now seen as drivers of sustainable development, put cities at the centre of the debates on sustainable development for all. Parallel to this development, there has been in the last years a growing interest in the idea of the 'Right to the City', namely in initiatives carried out in Europe and in Latin America. A landmark in this process was the adoption of the World Charter on the Right to the City. This session intends to explore and to discuss approaches and practices developed by local government in order to improve the quality of everyday life in cities and its outcomes based on a broader notion of 'Right to the City' - civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

In response to the Call for additional sessions focused on the COVID-19 Pandemic, following the postponement of the conference from 2020 to 2021, the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance proposed the following session, in addition to the previous eight: 'Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic'. More information is available in the Commission website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/home. See also Annex 9.5 below. The Call for Papers is open until January 2021.

5.6 - The 5th International Conference 'Urban e-Planning', Lisbon, Portugal, 2021

The 5th 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), and organized by the International Journal of E-Planning Research and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 2021 (exact date to be defined). The Conference addresses three main themes: 1. Governance and Planning of Smart Cities; 2. Citizen E-Participation in Urban Governance; 3. Urban e-Planning and the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Conference is endorsed by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance. More information is available in the conference website: https://sites.google.com/view/uep2020-conference/home

5.7 - The III International Conference on Urban Planning in Africa, Lisbon, Portugal, 2021

The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance will be associated with the AUPRN - African Urban Planning Research Network in the organization of the III International Conference on Urban Planning in Africa to be held in 2021 in the
University of Lisbon (date dependent on the evolution of the pandemic restrictions; will be announced as soon as possible).

5.8 - IGU-UGI Paris 2022: 100th anniversary of the foundation of the UGI / 100th IGU anniversary - 'Le temps des géographes' - 'Time for geographers', Paris, 18-22 July 2022

The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance will participate in the 100th IGU anniversary, to be held in Paris, France, on 18-22 July 2022. More information will be available in due time in the Commission website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/home

5.9 - Plan for other meetings (workshops / conferences / panels)

We also aim to take part in other meetings in Europe (RGS-IBG, AESOP, etc.), North America (AAG, UAA, etc.), South America (e.g., Latin America Geographers), Asia (e.g., China, Japan), Oceania (e.g., NZGS-IAG), and in Africa (North and sub-Saharan). This will take the form of sessions or panels in large conferences or own workshops and conferences. Some of these activities are expected to be developed in association with other IGU Commissions as well as with other professional associations. More information on this plan will be provided in the coming Newsletters.

6. RESEARCH PROJECT - 'Local Government Response Towards the COVID-19 Pandemic' - IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG)


The IGU-CGoG COVID-19 Action Plan has three main goals:

1. First, to collect evidence of the strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions taken by local government around the world towards the COVID-19 pandemic,
making it available to all, as soon as possible, in its website, in a way that this information can still be useful during the current pandemic.

2. Second, to promote joint comparative research on the responses of local government towards the COVID-19 pandemic, its outcomes and impacts, and lessons for the future, to be carried out by members of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, and other interested partners, as soon as possible in the coming months.

3. Third, to present, discuss, and publish the outcomes of the comparative research on the worldwide responses of local government towards the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific meetings and/or panels, as well as publications, will be considered in the 2021 and 2022 activity plans of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance.

The "IGU-CGoG COVID-19 Action Plan" aims to address the following research questions:

1. What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions have been adopted by local government to control and shape the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic locally?
2. What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions have been adopted by local government to tackle the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, on society and on the local economy?
3. What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions are local government employing to distribute resources and care among local populations and what cooperation with local community organizations and citizen initiatives during the pandemic?
4. What has been the relationship between local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions towards COVID-19 pandemic and public behaviour?
5. How has local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions towards COVID-19 impacted on the effects of the pandemic?
6. How effective were different local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions, taken in different countries worldwide, in reducing the local spread of COVID-19?
7. What changes have been introduced in central-local relations (decentralization / re-centralization) and what innovations in multi-level governance have been tried to tackle more effectively the COVID-19 pandemic?
8. What has been the role of inter-municipal cooperation and metropolitan government in this context?
9. What is being done through cross-border municipal and regional cooperation during the pandemic?
10. What local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions are being designed, in different countries worldwide, for the post COVID-19 crisis?

The stage 1 of this Action Plan consisted in the organization of a 'Worldwide Inventory of Local Government Actions towards the COVID-19 Pandemic' in March-April 2020. All countries in the world have a presence in this online repository of websites/portals with information on the national or city policies (responses) being developed by governments and cities across the world. This page compiles resources and information on local government strategies, plans, policy measures and actions towards the COVID-19 pandemic. This information can be accessed through the links available here: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/local-government-survey

The stage 2 of this Action Plan consists in the preparation of a series of individual contributions on specific countries or cities. These case studies started during the lockdown/confinement months, focused on the broad theme 'Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic'. The full set of these studies is expected to be submitted until end of December 2020.

The project publishes country and local studies (on municipalities, cities, metropolitan areas, regions, and other geographies) in its website: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/country-reports-and-local-studies, namely in the form of Working-Papers: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/working-papers (see Annex 9.7 below). Other publication options for the outputs of the project have also been considered. A special issue in the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) has already been published (see Annex 9.6 below). A book in the Springer book series 'Local and Urban Governance') is currently being prepared. More information available in the project website: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/home

Collaboration in this Action Plan is open to all members of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (Steering Committee and Corresponding Members) and to anyone interested on these themes. For additional information, please contact us: igu.geogov@gmail.com

7. OTHER ACTIVITIES BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

The role of local governments in the COVID crisis- empirical researches in CERS led by Ilona Pálné kovács (see www.rkk.hu).
8. PUBLICATIONS (2020/2021 & forthcoming)


McNeill, Jeffrey (2019). Benefiting from the regional problem: the politics of 60 years of regional development. New Zealand Geographer, 75(3) doi.org/10.1111/nzg.12237


Razin, Eran; Anna Hazan & Osnat Elron (2020): The rise and fall (?) of public-private partnerships in Israel’s local government, Local Government Studies, DOI: 10.1080/03003930.2020.1832892


Trono, Anna & Ruppi, Francesca (eds.) (forthcoming). *Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Routes In the Ionian and Adriatic Regions*. Panico Publisher.


Trono, Anna, Oliva, Luigi (forthcoming). The Via Francigena del Sud towards Rome: for an innovative spiritual vision, Bollettino della Societá Gografica Italiana BSG.

Trono, Anna, Rizzo, Luca Simone & Mansfeld, Yoel (eds.) (in preparation). Sustainable Tourism And Cultural Routes In The Ionian And Adriatic Regions. World Scientific.


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Special Issues in peer-reviewed international journals


Two special issues/sections are being prepared in the journal 'People, Place And Policy', due to be published at the end of 2020 and in 2021, both co-edited by Tony Gore (University of Sheffield, UK) and Carlos Nunes Silva (University of Lisbon, Portugal):

People, Place And Policy (PPP), Vol. 14 (3), 2020 - Special issue on Urban and Local Governance

People, Place And Policy (PPP), Vol. 15 (3), 2021 - Special Section on Local and Urban Governance: Trends, Challenges and Innovations in a Globalizing World
9. ANNEXES

9.1 ANNEX

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, 2020-2024
(in: IGU CGoG website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/aims)

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'Amenagement 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'Amenagement du Territoire et les Pouvoirs Locaux et Regionaux face aux 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 Doštál) 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.

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 and half 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
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 (1984-2020) is available in the website.

Colleagues interested in the Commission activities are welcome to contact the Commission Chair, Carlos Nunes Silva (University of Lisbon, Portugal, e-mail: cs@campus.ul.pt)

9.2 ANNEX - URL

- Commission website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/home
- Commission blog: http://igugeogov.blogspot.pt/
- Corresponding Members mailing list: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/mailing-list
9.3 ANNEX - IGU CGoG Annual Conference 2021 website
https://sites.google.com/view/geogov2021/

Track 1. Centralization and decentralization trends. Difficult paths of democracy
Track 2. Governance and planning
Track 3. Local governance and climate change
Track 4. Impacts and challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic on local government
Track 5. Uncertainty and complexity in territorial governance
9.4 ANNEX - AAG 2021 Annual Meeting - Seattle, USA - April 7 - 11, 2021

SESSION I - Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (I) - https://aag.secure-abstracts.com/AAG%20Annual%20Meeting%202021/sessions-gallery/27624


SESSION IV - Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (IV) - https://aag.secure-abstracts.com/AAG%20Annual%20Meeting%202021/sessions-gallery/27503

SESSION V - Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (V) - https://aag.secure-abstracts.com/AAG%20Annual%20Meeting%202021/sessions-gallery/27505

SESSION VI - Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (VI) - https://aag.secure-abstracts.com/AAG%20Annual%20Meeting%202021/sessions-gallery/27112
### SESSION - I • Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (I)

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<td>University of the Free State, South Africa</td>
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### SESSION - II • Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (II)

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<td>Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy</td>
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### SESSION - III • Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (III)

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<td>Valentina Erminia Albanese*</td>
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<td>present during the pandemic. The Italian case</td>
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<td>Pamela Robinson*, Ryerson University, Peter Johnson*, University of Waterloo, Canada</td>
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<td>Zhuoya Kang, University of Melbourne, Australia</td>
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**SESSION - IV • Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (IV)**

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**SESSION - V • Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (V)**

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| Xiaoling Chen  
University of Colorado, Boulder, USA | COVID-19 Containment in China: A Foucauldian Analysis |

**SESSION - VI** • Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses (VI)

| Carlos Nunes Silva  
University of Lisbon, Portugal | Chair / Introduction |
| Lukasz Mikula* & Tomasz Kaczmarek  
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland | The presidential elections in Poland during the Covid-19 pandemic.  
The unexpected challenge for political actors and relations between central and local government |
| Tony Gore  
Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom | Resources, Capacities and Power Relations: An Overview of Local Government Responses to Covid-19 in the UK |
| Vit Pászto*, Jaroslav Burian, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic | Covid-19 pandemic in Czechia – governmental and spatial perspectives |
| Carlos Nunes Silva,  
University of Lisbon, Portugal | Local Government response to Covid 19 in Portugal |
9.5 ANNEX - IGU 34th International Geographical Congress, 2021


IGU Commission Geography of Governance
8 sessions postponed from 2020 to 2021

IGU Commission Geography of Governance

Special Session on COVID-19 in the 34th International Geographical Congress, 2021


LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TOWARDS COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Chair: Carlos Nunes Silva
Co-chair:

Description

The session ‘Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic’ aims to examine and to discuss strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions taken by local government towards the COVID-19 pandemic, around the world, its outcomes and impacts, as well as lessons for the future. Among other issues, the session aims to address the following: 1. Strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions adopted by local government to control and shape the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic locally; 2. Strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions adopted by local government to tackle the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, on society and on the local economy; 3. Strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions employed by local government to distribute resources and care among local populations; 4. Cooperation with local community organizations and citizen initiatives during the pandemic; 5. Relationship between local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions towards COVID-19 pandemic and public behaviour; 6. Effectiveness of local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions, taken in different countries, in the reduction of the local spread of COVID-19; 7. Changes in central-local relations (decentralization / re-centralization); 8. Innovations in multi-level governance to tackle more effectively the COVID-19 pandemic; 9. Role of inter-municipal cooperation and metropolitan government in this context; 10. Cross-border municipal and regional cooperation during the pandemic; 11. Local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions for the post COVID-19 crisis; 12. Lessons for the future governance of cities and other human settlements learnt from this pandemic. This session is associated with the action plan developed by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance - 'IGU-CGoG COVID-19 Action Plan' (for more information, see the commission website: https://sites.google.com/view/igucog-covid19/home). It is expected that a selection of this session papers will be published in the Springer Series ‘Local and Urban Governance’ (https://www.springer.com/series/16129).
9.6 ANNEX - Special Open Access Issue on "Urban e-Planning and Covid-19 Pandemic", in the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR), edited by Carlos Nunes Silva (Chair of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance & Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal).


International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR)
Volume 10, Issue 2, April - June 2021 (Special Issue / Open Access)

EDITORIAL PREFACE - Urban E-Planning and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Public Health Response and Transformative Recovery
Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal)

ARTICLE 1
Successful Government Responses to the Pandemic: Contextualizing National and Urban Responses to the COVID-19 Outbreak in East and West
Ari-Veikko Anttiroiko (Tampere University, Finland)
www.igi-global.com/article/successful-government-responses-to-the-pandemic/262504

ARTICLE 2
Building Resilient, Smart Communities in a Post-COVID Era: Insights From Ireland
Aoife Doyle (Future Analytics Consulting Ltd., Ireland), William Hynes (Future Analytics Consulting Ltd., Ireland), Stephen M. Purcell (Future Analytics Consulting Ltd., Ireland)
www.igi-global.com/article/building-resilient-smart-communities-in-a-post-covid-era/262505

ARTICLE 3
Michael K. McCall (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico), Margaret M. Skutsch (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico), Jordi Honey-Roses (University of British Columbia, Canada)
www.igi-global.com/article/surveillance-in-the-covid-19-normal/262506
ARTICLE 4
COVID-19 Contact Tracing: From Local to Global and Back Again
Teresa Scassa (University of Ottawa, Canada)
www.igi-global.com/article/covid-19-contact-tracing/262507

ARTICLE 5
Pandemic-Driven Technology Adoption: Public Decision Makers Need to Tread Cautiously
Pamela Robinson (Ryerson University, Canada), Peter A. Johnson (University of Waterloo, Canada)
www.igi-global.com/article/pandemic-driven-technology-adoption/262508

ARTICLE 6
Vít Pászto (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic & Moravian Business College Olomouc, Czech Republic), Jaroslav Burian (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic & Moravian Business College Olomouc, Czech Republic), Karel Macků (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic)
www.igi-global.com/article/changing-mobility-lifestyle/262509

ARTICLE 7
Smart Technologies, Back-to-the-Village Rhetoric, and Tactical Urbanism: Post-COVID Planning Scenarios in Italy
Teresa Graziano (Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Catania, Italy)
www.igi-global.com/article/smart-technologies-back-to-the-village-rhetoric-and-tactical-urbanism/262510

ARTICLE 8
Exploring the Smart Future of Participation: Community, Inclusivity, and People With Disabilities
John Bricout (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, USA), Paul M. A. Baker (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA), Nathan W. Moon (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA), Bonita Sharma (University of Texas at San Antonio, USA)
www.igi-global.com/article/exploring-the-smart-future-of-participation/262511

ARTICLE 9
Technology Use by Urban Local Bodies in India to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic
Falguni Mukherjee (Sam Houston State University, USA)
www.igi-global.com/article/technology-use-by-urban-local-bodies-in-india-to-combat-the-covid-19-pandemic/262512
ARTICLE 10
Communicative Governance to Mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of Delhi, India
Nidhi Vij Mali (University of Mississippi, USA), Srinivas Yerramsetti (Independent researcher), Aroon P. Manoharan (University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA)
www.igi-global.com/article/communicative-governance-to-mitigate-the-covid-19-pandemic/262513

ARTICLE 11
Recombining Place: COVID-19 and Community Action Networks in South Africa
Nancy Odendaal (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
www.igi-global.com/article/recombining-place/262514

9.7 ANNEX - Working Papers published in 2020 - Project "Local Government Response Towards the Covid-19 Pandemic"

Working Paper # 1

Working Paper # 2
Contact

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