



## Annual Report 2020

### A. Membership

The statutes of the IGU state that Commissions should consist of a Chair and Steering Group of ten members plus a Secretary. Given the size and complexity of the Commission on Geographical Education, the proposal accepted by the IGU Executive for the renewal of the Commission for the period 2020 – 2024, included a) joint chairs, and b) a concept of a steering committee of “10+” in order to recognise the on-going and significant role played by former Chairs and Steering Group members and c) the concept of Regional Contacts who are publicly identified with the role of facilitating effective communication and outreach between the CGE and specific regions of the world. As approved by the Executive Committee of the IGU in 2020, the effective Steering Group of the Commission may therefore be considered as a core of 11 people consisting of two co-chairs plus nine other members including the Secretary, supported by a panel of twelve long standing former Steering Group members and linked closely with 65 regional contacts who are asked to ensure that local information on research and developments in geographical education are reported to the Commission Secretary for inclusion in the CGE Newsletter and that information provided to the international community through the CGE Newsletters are disseminated through local and regional networks.

**The formal statutory 2020 – 2024 Steering Group** therefore consists of:

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Dr. Jongwon Lee (Secretary) Professor of Geography Education, Department of Social Studies Education, Ewha Womans University 52, Ewhayeodae-gil, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 03760 South Korea Email: <a href="mailto:jongwonlee@ewha.ac.kr">jongwonlee@ewha.ac.kr</a>	Dr. Kathrin Schulman (Treasurer) Lecturer in Geography, Jewish Studies and their education, School of Education FHNW, Bahnhofstrasse 6, 5210 Windisch, Switzerland Email: <a href="mailto:kathrin.schulman@fhnw.ch">kathrin.schulman@fhnw.ch</a>
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**The active Advisory panel (10+) of former Chairs and members of the Steering group** currently consists of:

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**Regional contacts:** The location and contact details of the 65 regional contacts may be found in the CGE website at <http://www.igu-cge.org/> where there is an interactive map to assist those interested in the Commission to locate their nearest contact.

**Members:** The Commission on Geographical Education has members through a) those who attend its Symposia and IGU regional conferences and congresses; b) corresponding members who while unable to attend regular meetings, participate in the various publishing and research activities; and c) those who participate in the work of the Commission through the Commission Journal, *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education* (IRGEE). The annual changes in membership and spatial distribution are as follows. The Commission currently has regular communication with 1,151 people in 84 identified countries.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of memberships	777	915	958	1,104	<b>1,151</b>

1	United Arab Emirates	2
2	Albania	2
3	Armenia	1
4	Angola	1
5	Argentina	11
6	Austria	8
7	Australia	49
8	Azerbaijan	2
9	Bangladesh	2
10	Belgium	6
11	Bulgaria	5
12	Bolivia	1
13	Brazil	33
14	Belarus	2
15	Botswana	2
16	Canada	20
17	Switzerland	18
18	Chile	12

44	Kyrgyzstan	1
45	Cambodia	1
46	South Korea	17
47	Kazakhstan	2
48	Sri Lanka	1
49	Lesotho	2
50	Luxemburg	1
51	Latvia	1
52	Morocco	1
53	Mongolia	14
54	Malta	3
55	Mexico	6
56	Malaysia	6
57	Nigeria	8
58	The Netherlands	33
59	Norway	7
60	Nepal	1
61	New Zealand	22

19	China	52
20	Coast Rica	2
21	Cuba	1
22	Cyprus	1
23	Czech Republic	20
24	Germany	79
25	Denmark	9
26	Spain	15
27	Ethiopia	4
28	Finland	23
29	France	13
30	Gibraltar	1
31	Greece	7
32	Hong Kong China	11
33	Hungary	18
34	Indonesia	19
35	Ireland	6
36	Israel	13
37	India	31
38	Iran	3
39	Iceland	2
40	Italy	18
41	Jamaica	3
42	Japan	35
43	Kenya	3

62	Oman	2
63	Philippines	2
64	Pakistan	3
65	Poland	17
66	Puerto Rico	2
67	Portugal	13
68	Romania	8
69	Russia	10
70	Sweden	18
71	Singapore	19
72	Slovenia	3
73	Slovakia	2
74	Thailand	3
75	Tunisia	1
76	Turkey	29
77	Trinidad and Tobago	11
78	Ukraine	14
79	United Kingdom	107
80	United States	109
81	Venezuela	2
82	Viet Nam	2
83	South Africa	29
84	Zimbabwe	1
85	Unknown	50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,151</b>

## B. Meetings and programmes of work

**The meetings organized by the Commission on Geographical Education 2016 - 2020** with information on their locations, dates, and numbers of participants.

The Commission on Geographical Education engages with its constituency through five forms of meetings:

1. Special sessions arranged with local organisers as part of IGU Congresses and Regional meetings;
2. Symposia arranged by local organisers from within the Commission specific to the Commission;
3. Face to face meetings of the Steering Group (+10) to which all interested parties are invited to attend conducted at an appropriate time during or immediately before or after IGU Congresses or Conferences and Commission Symposia;
4. Virtual meetings conducted primarily for the Steering Group, Sub-committees of the Steering Group and Advisory Panel using various forms of internet collaborative software; and of particular note in the current reporting period;
5. Special meetings with other organisations and working parties for specific purposes.

**IGU CGE Prague Congress for 2020** has been postponed until 2021 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

**e-Symposium** – “Future Teachers for the Planet. Building Powerful Knowledge for Better ESD in Teacher Training” Organized by Péter Bagoly-Simó and Jeana Kriewaldt in partnership with the International Geographical Union’s Commission for Geographical Education (IGU-CGE), this e-

symposium focuses on the imperative to build powerful knowledge of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in teacher preparation. Drawing upon current debates in Geography Education around powerful (disciplinary) knowledge and adjectival educations, particularly ESD, the e-symposium puts teacher training into the spotlight and explores how future Geography teachers can be best equipped with knowledge to organize deep geographical learning based on expert knowledge with strong cross-curricular components. Interactive sessions will take place on December 5, 2020 and January 23, 2021.

**Virtual meetings of the Steering Committee** were held in September and December 2020. The Steering Committee shared the five key activity area of the Program of Work for the Commission 2020-2024, set up sub-committees including (1) out research & engagement, (2) research collaboration, and (3) publication, and discussed the current issues such as fund-raising projects, the Commission's next conferences.

### **Progress on Programmes of Work established in 2016-2020.**

This programme of work also includes the main issues discussed during the meetings of the Commission.

1. **Increase the visibility of the CGE.** The Commission performs a vital function to support international collaboration, to act as a network for geography education researchers and as an outlet for geography education research. The Commission has established a foundation for strong online and social media presence. The Commission has newly designed its website to increase the visibility of the CGE. The Commission has also been working on Wikipedia and is taking forward developing podcast for geography education community. The 2020-2024 Commission will develop ways of ensuring that the visibility and accessibility of the commission are shared with a wider audience. The Commission will do this by building on the work of the 2016-2020 Commission and the established Regional Contacts and strengthen dissemination forms such as social networking and maintaining an even stronger digital presence.
2. **Develop the CGE network.** The 2016-2020 Commission has greatly widened the reach and draw of the Commission and the IGU. In addition to maintaining a network of Regional Contacts who are clearly identified on our website ([www.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org)) and who act as local hubs for this virtual community, the CGE has established a Facebook page. To date there are 523 regular followers, and the number is growing steadily. The potential for outreach through social media is another way that the Commission is raising its visibility. You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/igucge/>. The Commission has also started a Twitter account ([@igu\\_cge](https://twitter.com/igu_cge)). The 2020 - 2024 Commission will seek to develop this network further. We will continue to work with early career researchers to enable them to join the current CGE network and we will continue to build on the network of Regional Contacts to spread the work of the Commission and disseminate its activities to a wider group.
3. **Enhance the quality of geography education research.** The Commission maintains a Geography Education Collection (<https://goo.gl/e8bvpg>) that collects information on Geography Education MA, MEd, EDD and PhD theses around the world. The on-line database is made available for researchers through the IGU-CGE website. In addition, the International Charter on Geographical Education has outlined the key areas of geography education research based on an extensive collation from existing literature and consultation with major stakeholders in geographical education. The Charter has been translated into French, Dutch, Chinese, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Lithuanian and Russian. There are plans to translate the Charter into more languages such as Japanese, Slovenian, Czech, Korean and Turkish so that this will have an international reach. The 2020 - 2024 Commission will continue to encourage high quality research collaborations with existing research networks in the various regional networks in places like North America, East Asia and Southeast Asia, on themes as described in the Research agenda section of the Charter.

4. **Diversify the possible outlets for geography education research.** The Commission's flagship journal IRGEE, has steadily improved in metrics and the Commission is committed to support the sustained development of the Journal. In addition, the Commission has supported a range of other publications, notably the Springer Book Series. The Commission book series "International Perspectives on Geographical Education" with Springer has published four books since 2017 and new books in the series planned on the '*Recontextualisation of Geography*' and '*Geography Teacher Education and Professionalization*'. The book series plays an important role in making geography education research accessible to the global community. The 2020 -2024 Commission will seek to diversify the range and opportunities for the publication and dissemination of geography education research, including exploring opportunities for Open Access, as well as more through the Commission Book Series.
5. **Further attend to the application to practice.** There is an increasing diversification of research applicable to geography education. However, criticisms have noted that there is a widening gap between the relevance and applicability of this research to the concerns and realities of practitioners. The 2020 -2024 Commission will seek to support the teaching of geography around the globe, through developing researcher-practitioner partnerships, stronger links with local and regional professional associations, working with researchers to consider contextual issues that may affect applicability to practice, and encouraging the wider dissemination of practitioner research through the international communities

#### **Additional Projects of the Commission in 2019/20**

1. **An international geography assessment project:** The Trends in International Geography Assessment Study 2023 (TIGAS 2023) is an international effort to design and develop a geography assessment based on the successful model used by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) for the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Major collaborating organizations include the Commission and the IEA/TIMSS. The initial funding for this project is being provided by the Geography Education National Implementation Project and the U.S. National Center for Research in Geography Education. On 8 October 2019, Joe Stoltman and Michael Solem presented a proposal for the international geography assessment at the 2019 IEA General Assembly in Slovenia. The IEA GA consists of representatives from ministries of education, known as National Research Coordinators (NRCs), who make decisions about IEA policies and future IEA projects. Additional information is available at <http://www.tigas2023.com>
2. **Work begins on geography curriculum analysis:** A research plan aim to develop a framework to describe and analyse school geography curriculum around the world has been approved by the NCRGE awarding program. The research will have an opportunity to bring practioners together and possible international comparative analysis as well. Chew-Hung Chang, Co-Chair of the Commission, will lead the project. The NCRGE (National Center for Research in Geography Education) is a research consortium committed to the advancement of basic and applied research in geography education at all levels.
3. **Podcast for geography education:** The social media team of the Commission is working on podcast for geography education community and are planning to interview with renowned researchers in geography education. On 20 November 2019 the first episode of the podcast to interview Simon Catling was produced and posted on the CGE website. They are planning 6-8 programs (one researcher for one program) and each program will have its own unique topic (e.g., teacher education).
4. **Digital learning material for COVID 19:** The commission has collected and shared digital teaching and learning resources to help geography education community respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission asked colleagues who have resources or online learning packages to share them and created a list of resources collated from commission members' input of digital learning materials for

geography (<http://www.igu-cge.org/2020/05/covid-cge-resources/>). The list was shared to the wider IGU community (through the IGU newsletter) so that colleagues working in other areas in Geography will also have access.

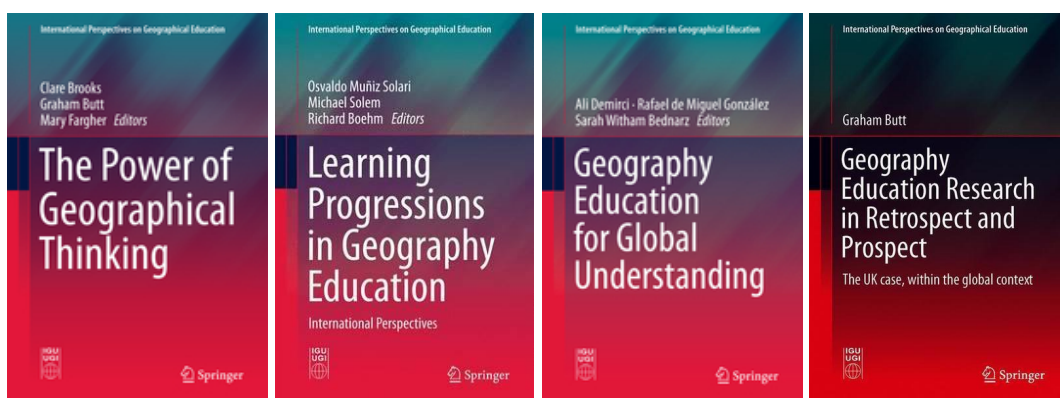
## C. Networking

### Means by which your commission has collaborated with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces

1. **Continued Support to the Society for Environmental Map Education** through the 29th Asahikawa Children's Environmental Map Contest in September 2020. The Commission supported the event through the IGU-CGE Awards for Environmental Map Education, for children who win the contest (<http://www.environmentalmap.org>).

## D. Publications

1. The Commission published regular newsletters by the WordPress and lodged them on the Commission website ([www.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org)).
2. The Commission continues to publish *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education (IRGEE)* through Taylor & Francis. ISSN: 1038-2046. IRGEE is published four times a year and serves four major purposes:
  - a. to promote an expanded international interest in research in geographical and environmental education;
  - b. to provide a forum for the critique of research studies and the discussion of relevant research issues in geographical and environmental education;
  - c. to encourage the international dissemination of research in geographical and environmental education; and
  - d. to demonstrate the relevance of research studies to good professional practice in geographical and environmental education.
3. The Commission publishes a book series "International Perspectives on Geographical Education" through Springer. ISSN: 2367-2773. There are currently four titles in the series:
  - a. Brooks, C., Butt, G., & Fargher, M. (Eds.). (2017). *The Power of Geographical Thinking*. Springer.
  - b. Solari, O. M., Solem, M., & Boehm, R. (Eds.). (2017). *Learning Progressions in Geography Education: International Perspectives*. Springer.
  - c. Demirci, A., Miguel González, R., & Bednarz, S. W. (Eds.) (2018). *Geography Education for Global Understanding*. Springer.
  - d. Butt, G. (2020). *Geography Education Research in the UK: Retrospect and Prospect – The UK Case Within the Global Context*. Springer.



## E. Archival Contributions

All publications of the Commission, including all newsletters, monographs, and issues of *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education* are sent to the IGU Secretary General soon after publication. See also the website [www.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org) for Newsletters of the Commission.

**The current accurate URL of the commission's web site:** The current web site of the Commission on Geography Education may be found at: <http://www.igu-cge.org/> The website includes archived Newsletters as well as current details of all projects, publications and proposals.

## F. Future meetings

**CGE Prague, Czech Republic 2021** IGU-CGE conference is scheduled to be held in Prague, Czech Republic with the theme “Making connections: Cooperation and networking in geography education”. With this theme, the organising committee intends to support one of the main goals of the Commission on Geography Education – the networking of researchers from all around the world investigating geographic education from different perspectives. The conference schedule and method are subject to change depending on situation of COVID-19 pandemic.

**CGE Paris 2022.** 2021 CGE conference will be held in Paris, France. More details will be announced soon.

*This ends the 2020 annual report and is respectfully submitted to the Executive Committee of the International Geographical Union by*

*Assoc Prof Chew-Hung Chang and Prof Michael Solem*

*on behalf of the 2020-2024 Steering Group of the IGU Commission on Geographical Education.*