

C20.16 Commission on Geography of Information, Innovation and Technology
Activities 2019–2020

The Commission on Geography of Information, Innovation and Technology has had a productive period during the past two years with active plans for future events and activities. This report summarizes the Commission's steering committee and general membership, past and future events, and collaborations.

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Membership

Currently, there are 116 members on the Commission mailing list. The locations include United States (26), France (10), United Kingdom (8), Germany (8), Japan (7), Italy (7), Korea (5), Greece (5), Australia (4), China (4), Finland (4), Sweden (4), Israel (3), Netherlands (3), Canada (2), India (2), Austria (1), Belgium (1), Czech Republic (1), Cyprys (1), Greenland (1), Ireland (1), New Zealand (1), Nigeria (1), Poland (1), Singapore (1), South Africa (1), Spain (1), and unknown (2).

2. Meetings 2019

With the move to annual IGU meetings the Commission has been able to develop sessions annually. In general, if the large meeting schedule principle continuous to be every two years, we plan to hold our own meetings in non-IGU years. The Commission has been able to include dedicated sessions at other conferences to maintain interest and access to the Commission's core focus on information society, at AAG and Regional Studies events during 2019. Past and future meetings include:

- 2019 – July – Commission organized a researcher meeting and roundtable discussion in Milan 8.7.2019. The title of the event was “About Innovation: The Geographies of Disruptions. The seminar was the second of the cycle about Urban Innovation. Place and Policy Making for Production and Consumption, promoted by DASTU (Politecnico di Milano) around features and challenges of urban and regional

- innovation processes. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Milan Polytechnic. Number of participants: 12.
- 2019 July – Commission organized a roundtable session as a part of the AESOP 9.–13.7.2019 (Association of European Schools of Planning) global congress in Venice, Italy. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Commission and Milan Polytechnic. Number of participants: 23.

Cancelled meetings in 2020

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the year 2020 was an unexpected exception in the history of the Commission. Our plans for the year 2020 included the following meetings:

- 2020 April – Commission support for a session as part of the AAG annual meeting in Denver, Colorado.
- 2020 June – Mobile Tartu, Commission supports the international conference in Estonia, Tartu, initiated by our past steering group member, Prof. Rein Ahas.
- 2020 July - the Commission organizes session(s) for the International Urban Planning and Environment Conference to be held in Tartu, Estonia, July 20–23, 2020.
- 2020 August – Commission organizes/co-organizes three (or up-to five sessions) in the 34th IGC in Istanbul. Three sessions have already been accepted by the local organizers. We expect around 20–30 commission members to participate the event.

None of these events realized. There were free-of-charge webinars substituting the real life meetings but their participation is unknown to us as the sessions were reorganized by the local committees. Our main task for 2021 will be in organizing in the 34th IGC the three to five sessions that are allocated to us for the canceled 2020.

3. Networking

Collaboration occurs with scholarly groups and with two journals. Details include:

- IGU collaboration has been with a number of Commissions members including commissions such as Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change, Urban Geography, and the Mediterranean Basin.
- *NETCOM* is the official Journal of the IGU Commission on the Geography of Global Information Society, and is published under the auspices of the Study Group MTE (CNRS) and Université of Montpellier III, the International Geographical Union, and the French National Committee on Geography. NETCOM takes an interdisciplinary perspective on networks, communications, and space.

- *Journal of Urban Technology*, which has commission members on its editorial board and publishes articles, and when possible, special issues drawn from Commission, AAG and IGU conference sessions.

4. Publications

Information is disseminated regularly to Commission members via e-mail, including updates on Commission activities, meetings and publications of interests, and requests for information for scholars studying information society. The Commission also uses its websites to inform members of activities. The Commission website is www.igu-informationssociety.org (or alternatively <https://journals.openedition.org/netcom/2512>).

Commission has continued to update its website in 2019 with a historical background of the 30-year evolution of the field (and commission itself). The website is also used to disseminate information regarding our up-coming sessions in IGU events.

Commission members have published extensively in the leading journals of the field during 2019–2020. The members have also published books with leading publishers such as Routledge and Springer; and they work actively as editors, editorial board members and reviewers in numerous international journals. Commission members have published a significant amount of scientific books during the period. Selected references to these publications are:

Author: Tan Yigitcanlar & Tommi Inkinen

Book title: Geographies of Disruption

Year of publication: 2019

Publisher: Springer

ISBN: Print 978-3-030-03206-7; Online 978-3-030-03207-4

Editor(s): Tommi Inkinen, Tan Yigitcanlar & Mark Wilson

Book title: Smart Cities and Innovative Urban Technologies

Year of publication: 2020

Publisher: Routledge/Taylor & Francis

Author: Aharon Kellerman

Book title: The Internet City: People, Companies, Systems and Vehicles

Year of publication: 2019

Publisher: Edward Elgar

ISBN: 978 1 78897 358 8

Author: Aharon Kellerman

Book title: Globalization and Spatial Mobilities

Year of publication: 2020

Publisher: Edward Elgar

ISBN: 978 1 78990 121 4

Author: Joana Maria Seguí

Book title: La Geografia dels transports i de les mobilitats al segle XXI

Year of publication: 2019

Publisher: Institut d'Estudis Catalans

ISBN: 9788499654973

Editor(s): Mark Wilson & Stefano di Vita

Book title: Planning and Managing Smaller Events

Year of publication: 2020

Publisher: Routledge/Taylor & Francis

ISBN: 9780367218157

5. Archival Contributions

Our website includes a short description and evolution of the Commission during its 30-years of history. The website also includes the names of successive chairs of the Commission. The history is available at <https://journals.openedition.org/netcom/2512#tocto1n2>