

C20.38 Research Methods in Geography Annual Report 2020

A. Membership

A.1 Steering Committee

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There are still no corresponding members, but we will focus on this task as soon as the Commission website is finalized.

B. Meetings

The Commission was formally approved in April 2020. Accordingly, this report considers activities of the Commission during the period April 2020-December 2020. Given the current pandemic situation, all the meetings have been held online.

B.1. Virtual meetings

- **Online inauguration meeting (16 April 2020)**
All the steering group members attended the meeting. The topics discussed were (I) the composition of the new Commission and its vision, (II) the “Vision and Means” document, (III) strategies to increase the visibility of the new Commission (website, social media, personal networks).
- **Online meeting (25 June 2020)**
Seven steering group members attended the meeting. The topics discussed were (I) the draft for the Commission website (webpages and contents), (II) recruitment of the corresponding members, (III) the Commission inaugural session program at the IGU 34th International Geographical Congress, (IV) the possibility of adding two/three new steering committee members in order to increase the range of geographic areas and research topics within the steering committee.
- **Online meeting (13 August 2020)**
Six steering group members attended the meeting. The topics discussed were: (I) finalizing the Commission’s vision. (II) evaluating means to expose the activities of the Commission. (III) the need to recruit members to the Commission. (IV) the outline and structure of the Commission’s webpage.

B.2. Program of work

This program summarizes the topics addressed at each meeting and identifies the main areas of work for the next ones:

- **Improving a transnational critical dialogue on research methods in Geography**
The Commission aims at supporting the development and sharing of knowledge, theories and research methods by involving scholars from different regions and traditions and providing support conditions for academic and scientific cooperation. To achieve this goal the Commission work will focus on (I) the organization of one international online workshop in 2021 to discuss and share conceptual and practical issues associated with research methods in geography and (II) an effective sharing of digital resources on research methodology in geography (e.g., books, journals, blogs) to facilitate the development and diffusion of innovative research methods and approaches.

- **Increasing the Commission's visibility**

In order to promote and support international dialogue on research methods, it is important to heighten the visibility of the Commission. The steering committee recognises the importance of a strong online and social media presence and thanks to an IGU operating grant the Commission has commissioned (I) the design of a website based on CMS Wordpress for both desktop and mobile devices and (II) the creation of an original logo for the Commission. Social media will have a key role within the Commission communication strategy. As soon as the website is available, a Facebook page and a Twitter account will follow.

- **Developing the network**

Website, social media platforms and personal networking are the ground for the development and implementation of the network. In particular, corresponding members will be recruited by all the members of the Steering Committee.

C. Networking

The Commission recognizes that cooperation with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces is an essential condition to reflect on and share innovative methods and support the conduct of high-quality research. Accordingly, in 2021 the Commission intends to involve the Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force in the organization of an international workshop on research methods in Geography.

During 2021 the Commission's website will also be constructed, and used to facilitate recruitment of members and networking with other commissions.

D. Publications

1. Dickens, L. & Hay, I. 2020, 'Geographers and ethics', *Oxford Bibliographies in Geography*, ed. Barney Warf, Oxford University Press, New York. (@10,000 words) DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199874002-0223
2. Hay, I. & Dickens, L. 2020, 'Geography and ethics', *Oxford Bibliographies in Geography*, ed. Barney Warf, Oxford University Press, New York. (@10,000 words) DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199874002-0093
3. Hay, I. 2020, 'Qualitative data' (updated) in *The International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment and Technology*, eds. D. Richardson, N. Castree, M.F. Goodchild, A.L. Kobayashi, W. Liu, & R.A. Marston, Wiley-Blackwell. DOI: 10.1002/9781118786352.wbieg0421.pub2