



International Geographical Union – Union Géographique Internationale

Commission on Marginalization, Globalization and Regional and Local Response C20.32

Annual Report 2021

(by Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, chair, and Walter Leimgruber, secretary)

A Membership

A 1 Steering committee 2020-2024

Chair of the commission

Prof. Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš
UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB
Faculty of Science, Department of Geography
Marulićev trg 19/II, 10000 Zagreb
Croatia
Web: www.pmf.unizg.hr/geog/en/borna.fuerst-bjelis
E-mail: bornafb@geog.pmf.unizg.hr

Steering committee members

Ass. Prof. Firuza Begham Binti Mustafa
Deputy Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Arts
and Social Sciences
University of Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
E-mail: firuza@um.edu.my

Prof. Ruth Kark
Department of Geography Faculty of Social
Sciences
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905,
Israel
E-mail: mskark@mscc.huji.ac.il

Prof. Daichi Kohmoto
Nara University of Education,
Takabatake-cho, Nara, 630-8528
Japan
E-mail: daichizu@gmail.com

Prof. Olli Lehtonen
Department of Geographical and Historical
Studies
University of Eastern Finland
Joensuu
Finland
olli.lehtonen@uef.fi

Prof. Shoba Shrestha,
Central Department of Geography,
Tribhuvan University,
Kathmandu
Nepal
shova216@gmail.com

Prof. Márcio Valença
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte,
IIP · Departamento de Políticas Públicas
Natal
Brazil
marciovalenca10@gmail.com

Prof. Alain François Loukou,
 Université Alassane Ouattara
 Bouaké
 Côte d'Ivoire
Alain_loukou@hotmail.com

Prof. Catherine Robinson
 University of Queensland, Brisbane St Lucia,
 QLD 4072,
 Australia
Catherine.Robinson@csiro.au

Commission Secretary

Prof. Emeritus Walter Leimgruber
 Université de Fribourg/CH, Département de Géosciences, Unité de Géographie
 4, chemin du Musée
 CH-1700 Fribourg
 Switzerland
 Phone: ++41 26 300 90 10 (secr.), +41 26 402 83 02 (private)
 Fax: ++41 26 300 96 47 (secretariate)
 E-mail: walter.leimgruber@unifr.ch

A 2 Members

There are currently 308 persons from 56 countries on our member list, about 100 females.

Algeria	1	Japan	13
Argentina	9	Malaysia	4
Australia	4	Mexico	3
Austria	2	Namibia	1
Bangladesh	2	Nepal	22
Bosnia	2	Netherlands	2
Brazil	2	New Zealand	5
Canada	6	Nigeria	1
Chile	1	Norway	3
China, PR	5	Poland	12
China Taipei	4	Portugal	10
Costa Rica	1	Qatar	1
Côte d'Ivoire	1	Romania	15
Croatia	15	Saudi Arabia	1
Czech Republic	7	Slovakia	1
Denmark	1	Slovenia	9
Ethiopia	2	South Africa	5
Finland	7	South Korea	1
France	8	Spain	22
Germany	7	Sweden	14
Hong Kong	1	Switzerland	12
Hungary	2	Tunesia	1
Iceland	1	Turkey	10
India	15	UK	11
Indonesia	1	USA	16
Iran	1	Vietnam	1
Israel	6		
Italy	8	TOTAL	308

B Meetings

i) Commission conference 9-10 August 2021, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (virtual)

The annual conference of the Commission, *Bridging Regional Responses to Marginalization and Disparities in a Globalized World*, was organized by the Centre for Regional Geography, Faculty of Geography of “Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Initially scheduled for 9-14 August 2020 in Cluj-Napoca, it had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was eventually held on 9 and 10 August 2021 in a virtual format, online, using an enhanced version of the Zoom platform, thanks to funding by the IGU.

22 papers by 48 authors and co-authors were presented, and there were several other attendees to the meeting. While this format allows to present ideas and research results, it is impersonal and does not facilitate discussion. It is to be hoped that in future we shall be able to meet in person again. The programme included an opening panel and five paper sessions, and the following papers were delivered:

Panel: The global impact of COVID-19 pandemic and local responses

Etienne Nel

Exacerbating marginalization: COVID-19's impact on peripheral, tourism- dependent regions in New Zealand and local responses

Dolores Sánchez-Aguilera, Ángela Martínez-Rivas, Jaime Martínez-Ruiz

Pandemic as a driver of marginality in the heart of the city. New dynamics in the Ramblas in Barcelona (Spain)

Paulo Nossa, Anabela Mota-Pinto, Julio Masquete, Alice Freia, Fernanda Cravidão

A geographical reading of the diffusion of covid19 from hyperconnectivity territories and the way they impact marginal regions: the case of Lichinga, Northern Mozambique

Paper session 1: Opportunities and challenges in rural area

Toivo Muilu, Olli Voutilainen

Rural proofing as a method and practice – experiences from Finland

Chhabi Lal Chidi

Population dynamics and agricultural land abandonment in the mountains and the hills of Nepal

Lelia Papp, Ana-Maria Pop

Turning constraints into opportunities: farming activities and labelling agricultural and food products in the Romanian mountain area

Paper session 2: Gendered and cultural inequalities and vulnerabilities

Marinela Istrate, Andreea Fedor, Corneliu Iașu

European citizens' perception of women's involvement in political life. Evidence for Romania and other central and eastern European countries

Elena-Manuela Bîrsănuș

Gendered vulnerability to energy poverty in Romania

Hugo Capellà Miterique

Solitude: a lost voice in the desert

Paper session 3: Economic and social inequalities and disparities in the globalized world

Ibolya Török, József Benedek

Measuring the spatial dimension of income inequality: evidence from Romania

Steve Déry, Claudia Currado, Marcel Lefebvre, Weldy Saint-Fleur, Arnaud Vigouroux

Reduire les inegalites pour sauver la planete : par quel bout commencer ?

Ștefana Rotaru

Three Seas Initiative – between geography, economy and politics. The strategic importance of the U.S.' engagement

Paper session 4: Land use management and change in marginal areas

Mohd Salleh Daim, Jamalunlaili Abdullah

Protected area as a source of livelihood: analysis on the perspectives of the local stakeholders to Taman Negara National Park (TNNP), Pahang, Malaysia

Andreea Costea, Ștefan Bilașco

Evaluation of the risk induced by erosion on the land use. Case study: Guruslău depression

Uttam Sagar Shrestha

Population growth and land use change in the Tamakoshi river basin of central mountain region, Nepal

Paper session 5: Ways out of marginality. Accessibility, mobility and urban development

Walter Leimgruber

"I knew early on I wanted to be a plumber. And it worked out." Education as a way out of marginality

Raularian Rusu, Titus-Cristian Man, Ciprian-Sandu Moldovan, Bogdan-Eugen Dolean

Accessibility and marginality of settlements in Cluj county (Romania)

Ciprian-Sandu Moldovan, Raularian Rusu, Titus-Cristian Man, Elena-Manuela Bîrsănuș, Iulia Hărănguș, Bogdan-Eugen Dolean

Towards smart transportation. Mobility and urban development in Cluj metropolitan area

Cosmina-Daniela Ursu

The evolution of impervious surfaces based on Copernicus high resolution layers. Case study: growth poles and their metropolitan areas, Romania

The conference ended with a business meeting on Tuesday afternoon, which included both a record of past achievements and an outlook on our future activities. The next annual conferences are proposed to take place in Reims (France) in 2022, in Malaysia in 2023, and in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) in 2024. As to publications, the excellent collaboration with Springer was emphasized. A book about COVID-19 issues is being prepared, and also the papers presented at this virtual conference will be arranged in the near future. Further virtual commission meetings are possible, and it was proposed that future annual conferences might be organized in a hybrid way, allowing for the online participation of members who cannot attend in person. The final remarks included congratulations to the organizers of this virtual conference, which ended happily with no technical problems, and was a novelty for many of the participants.

ii) 34th International Geographical Congress, Istanbul (virtual)

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions, the ICG was held online via Zoom. Our Commission participated in the special COVID-10 session with four papers. All presentations had been pre-recorded by the authors but the live transmission functioned perfectly. The session was chaired by Prof. Armando Montanari (Italy)

The following papers were delivered under the motto 'Bridging in a Covidian world (of still) increasing inequalities / *Construire des ponts dans un monde covidien aux inégalités (toujours) croissantes*'

Borna Fuerst-Bjelis, Ivan Sulc

COVID -19 pandemic implications on tourism preferences: potentially new challenges for marginal areas

José Manuel Crespo-Guerrero, Araceli Jiménez-Pelcastre

Réponses communautaires des pêcheurs côtiers pendant la pandémie de COVID-19 dans L'État de Yucatán (Mexique)

Walter Leimgruber

COVID-19 lockdown and education: the risk of increasing marginalization. Reflections on distance-schooling in Switzerland

Antoine Beaulieu

Peasant adaptations to global market integration in southern Việt Nam

C Networking

C.1 Collaboration with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces

We had no formal collaboration with other Commissions or Task Forces of the IGU in 2021.

C.2 Other collaboration

Due to the pandemic, there was no formal collaboration with other organizations, with the International Social Science Council or the International Council for Science in 2021.

D Publications

D.1 Newsletters, special journal issues, and books published in 2018

We issue two Newsletters annually, one in June/July, the second in December. Since 2017, they feature an editorial written by the chair.

In addition, seven short NewsFlashes were sent to our members in 2019. They are a means to maintain contact and inform members of specific events or new publications.

D.2 Books and other publications

Preparations for two new volumes in our Springer series Perspectives on geographical marginality have been advancing. The book with papers from the Nepal conference was almost complete but delayed for medical reasons. It will be ready for 2022. A book on the COVID-19 issue is being prepared and should also be published in 2022.

Further volumes are in preparation.

D.3 The current accurate URL of the commission's web site

Our new website address is: <https://sites.google.com/site/stankopelc/>

It has been set up and is maintained by our member and former chair Stanko Pelc (University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia)

The Commission has also a page on Facebook, maintained by Prof. Daichi Kohmoto:

<https://www.facebook.com/GeographicalMarginality>

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