

C20.16 Commission on Geography of Information, Innovation and Technology
Activities 2020–2021

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 (34), France (10), Italy (8), United Kingdom (8), Germany (7), Japan (7), India (6), Finland (3), Greece (3), Israel (3), Netherlands (2), Australia (2), Canada (2), China (2), South-Korea (2), Argentina (1), Austria (1), Belgium (1), Czech Republic (1), Cyprus (1), Hongkong (1), Ireland (1), New Zealand (1), Nigeria (1), Poland (1), Singapore (1), South Africa (1), Spain (1), Sweden (1), and unknown (3).

2. Meetings 2021

The 2020 was a Covid-19 year. This affected all activities by the commission and due to the strict travel restrictions and health-first principle, we did not organize physical meetings. If the situation normalizes, we aim to uphold our earlier principle that the Commission should be 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. Before the pandemic, our 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. These include e.g. AAG and Regional Studies events. In 2021 we were present at the virtual 34IGC in Istanbul:

- 2020 – August – Istanbul meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19..
- 2021 – August – Commission organized three sessions in re-scheduled virtual IGC34 (Istanbul). Due to a relatively expensive price for a virtual meeting we had only 7 to 9 participants in each session. Overall quality was good and the national diversity quite

ok. Majority of the participants in sessions were from Asian countries (Japan and South-Korea). Total number of participants in our sessions: 21.

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.

Future events in 2022

If the Covid-19 pandemic subdues we are organizing 4 sessions in the centennial meeting 2022 in Paris. They are confirmed. We also encourage our members in national committees and societies to organize special sessions on the topics of our commission. However, due to the uncertainty related to physical travel these plans vary on the daily bases. As such, for example, our commission did not recommend any sessions for the 2022 AAG NY meeting where we traditionally have had our specific topic sessions in collaboration with relevant AAG committees.

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 members have published extensively in the leading journals of the field during 2020–2021. The members have also published books with leading publishers such as Routledge, Springer and Edward Elgar; and they work actively as editors, editorial board members and reviewers in numerous international journals.

Commission affiliated Journal of Urban Technology (Taylor & Francis) is currently ranked 4th in Web of Science Impact Factor listing in the category “Urban Studies” (Impact Factor: 5.465).

Commission members have published a significant amount of scientific books during the period (2020–2021). These include e.g. from the chairperson in collaboration with board members (just to name a few examples from the vast array of our members research and topics):

Books and Special Issues:

Inkinen, T., Yigitcanlar, T. & M. Wilson (eds. 2021). *Smart Cities and Innovative Urban Technologies*. Routledge, London. <https://www.routledge.com/Smart-Cities-and-Innovative-Urban-Technologies/Inkinen-Yigitcanlar-Wilson/p/book/9780367677930>

Inkinen, T., Yigitcanlar, T. & M. Wilson (eds. 2021). *Special Issue: Sustainable mobility and transport. Sustainability*. https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/Mobility

Di Vita, S. & M. Wilson (eds. 2020): *Planning and Managing Smaller Events: Downsizing Urban Spectacle*. Routledge, London. DOI: 10.4324/9780429266263

Inkinen, T. (ed. 2020). Special Issue: Clusters, Geographies, Economies, Innovations. *Journal of Open Innovation*. https://www.mdpi.com/journal/JOItmC/special_issues/Clusters_Geographies

Kellerman, A. (2020). *Globalization and Spatial Mobilities*. Edward Elgar, Cheltenham. <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/globalization-and-spatial-mobilities-9781789901214.html>

Refereed international journal articles

Brunila, O.-P., Kunnaala-Hyrkki, V. & T. Inkinen (2021). Hindrances in port digitalization? Identifying problems in adoption and implementation. *European Transport Research Review*. Accepted.

Goddard, M., Davies, Z. Guenat, S... & M. Dallimer (2021). A global horizon scan of the future impacts of robotics and autonomous systems on urban ecosystems. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 5, 219–231. DOI: 10.1038/s41559-020-01358-z

Inkinen, T., Helminen, R. & J. Saarikoski (2021). Technological Trajectories and Scenarios in Seaport Digitalization. *Research in Transportation Business and Management*. Article nr. 100633. DOI: 10.1016/j.rtbm.2021.100633

Inkinen, T. & S. Jokela (2021). Start-ups, business investors and flow of music: contrasting two creative events in Helsinki, Finland. In Di Vita, S. & M. Wilson (eds.): *Planning and Managing Smaller Events: Downsizing Urban Spectacle*. Routledge, London. (JUFO:3). ISBN: 978-0-367-21815-7. DOI: 10.4324/9780429266263

Makkonen, T. & T. Inkinen (2021). Systems of Environmental Innovation: Sectoral and Technological Perspectives on Ballast Water Treatment Systems. *WMU Journal of Maritime Affairs*. DOI: 10.1007/s13437-021-00226-2

Yigitcanlar, T., Kankanamge, N., Inkinen, T., Butler, L., Preston, A., Ostadnia, M., Gill, P., Ioppolo, G. & M. Senevirathne (2021). Pandemic Vulnerability Knowledge Visualisation for Strategic Decision-Making: A COVID-19 Index for Government Response in Australia. *Management Decision*. DOI: 10.1108/MD-11-2020-1527

Brunila, O.-P., T. Inkinen, V. Kunnaala-Hyrkki, E. Hämäläinen & K. Ala-Rämi (2020). Black carbon, maritime traffic and the Arctic. In Pongrácz, E., Pavlov, V. & N. Hänninen (eds.): *Arctic Marine Sustainability: Arctic Maritime Businesses and the Resilience of the Marine Environment*, 165–177. Springer, New York. (JUFO:2). DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-28404-6_8

Inkinen, T. & E. Hämäläinen (2020). Reviewing truck logistics: Solutions for achieving low emissions freight transport. *Sustainability* 12, 6714. DOI: 10.3390/su12176714

Sabatini-Marques, J., Yigitcanlar, T., Schreiner, T., Wittmann, T., Sotto, D. & T. Inkinen (2020). Strategizing Smart, Sustainable, and Knowledge-Based Development of Cities: Insights from Florianópolis, Brazil. *Sustainability* 12, 8859. DOI: 10.3390/su12218859

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>