



Annual Report 2021

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:

Dr. Chew-Hung Chang (Co-Chair) Professor, Humanities and Social Studies Education Academic Group National Institute of Education, NIE1-04-06, 1 Nanyang Walk, Singapore 637616 Email: chewhung.chang@nie.edu.sg	Dr. Michael Solem (Co-Chair) Senior Advisor for Geography Education, Association of American Geographers / Professor of Geography, Texas State University Email: msolem@txstate.edu
Dr. Jongwon Lee (Secretary) Professor of Geography Education, Department of Social Studies Education, Ewha Womans University 52, Ewhayodae-gil, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 03760 South Korea Email: jongwonlee@ewha.ac.kr	Dr. Kathrin Schulman (Treasurer) Lecturer in Geography, Jewish Studies and their education, School of Education FHNW, Bahnhofsstrasse 6, 5210 Windisch, Switzerland Email: kathrin.schulman@fhnw.ch
Dr. Andoni Arenas Martija Associate Professor, Laboratory of Geography, Education and Social Actors of Space. Institute of Geography, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso. Avenida Brasil 2241. CP 2362807. Valparaíso, Chile Email: andoni.arenas@pucv.cl / andoni.arenas.geo@gmail.com	Dr. David Örbring Senior Lecturer, Malmö University Nordenskiöldsgatan 1, 211 19 Malmö, Sweden Email: david.orbring@uvet.lu.se
Dr. Di Wilmot Professor, Dean of Education, Faculty of Education, Rhodes University, Grahamstown 6140,	Dr. Yu Shan Duan Professor, Director of Shanghai Geography Education and Teaching Research Base, East

South Africa Email: D.Wilmot@ru.ac.za	China Normal University, 500 Dongchuan Rd, Shanghai 200241, P.R.China Email: ysduan@126.com / ysduan@geo.ecnu.edu.cn
Dr. Martin Hanus Assistant professor, Faculty of Science, Charles University, Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Centre for Geographical and Environmental Education Albertov 6, 128 00 Praha 2, Czechia Email: martin.hanus@natur.cuni.cz	Dr. Tine Benecker Professor of Geography & Education Utrecht University, Vening Meineszgebouw A, Princetonlaan 8a, 584 CB Utrecht, Netherlands Tel.: +31 30 253 2039 Email: t.benecker@uu.nl
Dr. Gillian Kidman Associate Professor in Science Education Monash University, Room 166, Building 902, Berwick Campus 100 Clyde Road Berwick VIC 3806 Australia Email: gillian.kidman@monash.edu	

The active Advisory panel (10+) of former Chairs and members of the Steering group currently consists of:

Dr. Clare Brooks Professor of Education and Pro-Director, Education Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL, UK Tel: +44 (0)20 7612 6047 Email: c.brooks@ioe.ac.uk	Dr. John Lidstone Professor Faculty of Education, Cultural and Language Studies in Education Queensland University of Technology Victoria Park Road Kelvin Grove, Brisbane, Queensland 4059, Australia Email: j.lidstone@qut.edu.au Website: staff.qut.edu.au/staff/lidstone/
Dr. Joop van der Schee Emeritus Professor for Geography Education Faculty Behavioural and Movement Sciences Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam post address: Buitenveldertselaan 3, 1082 VA Amsterdam, The Netherlands E-mail: j.a.vander.schee@vu.nl Website: www.joop.vdschee.nl	Dr. Fernando Alexandre Geography Coordinator - Department of Social Sciences, S. João do Estoril High School & Education and Development Research Unit Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Lisbon Rua Brito Camacho, 2769-501 Estoril, Portugal Email: fernando.alexandre@essje.pt
Dr. Osvaldo Muniz-Solari Professor of Geography Department of Geography Texas State University San Marcos, TX 78666, USA Email: o.muniz@txstate.edu	Dr. Sarah Bednarz Emeritus Professor Department of Geography, Texas A&M University College Station, Texas 77843-3147 United States Email: s-bednarz@tamu.edu
Dr. Simon Catling Emeritus Professor Oxford Brookes University School of Education Harcourt Hill Campus OX2 9AT Oxford United Kingdom Email: sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk	Dr. Ivy Tan Associate Professor Humanities & Social Studies Education Academic Group National Institute of Education Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 1 Nanyang Walk, Singapore 637616 Email: ivy.tan@nie.edu.sg
Dr. Sirpa Tani Professor of Geography and Environmental	Dr. Lex Chalmers University of Waikato

Education Department of Teacher Education, Applied Sciences of Education P.O. Box 9 FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland Email: sirpa.tani@helsinki.fi	Geography Hillcrest Road 3240 Hamilton New Zealand Email: lex@waikato.ac.nz
Dr. Joseph Stoltman Department of Geography College of Arts and Sciences Western Michigan University 3219 Wood Hall Kalamazoo MI 49008-5424 USA Email: joseph.stoltman@wmich.edu	Dr. Sibylle Reinfried Professor Emeritus University of Teacher Education Central Switzerland Lucerne Department of Teaching and Learning Froburgstrasse 3 6002 Lucerne Switzerland Email: sibylle.reinfried@phlu.ch

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's Journal, *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education* (IRGEE). The annual changes in membership and distribution by territories and regions are as follows. The Commission has regular communication with 1,238 people in 87 identified territories.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of memberships	915	958	1,104	1,151	1,238

1	United Arab Emirates	2
2	Albania	2
3	Armenia	1
4	Angola	1
5	Argentina	11
6	Austria	9
7	Australia	53
8	Azerbaijan	2
9	Bangladesh	3
10	Belgium	6
11	Bulgaria	5
12	Bolivia	1
13	Brazil	36
14	Belarus	2
15	Botswana	2
16	Canada	22
17	Switzerland	18
18	Chile	12
19	China	52
20	Costa Rica	2
21	Cuba	3
22	Cyprus	1
23	Czech Republic	21
24	Germany	84
25	Denmark	9
26	Spain	15

45	Cambodia	1
46	South Korea	17
47	Kazakhstan	2
48	Sri Lanka	1
49	Lesotho	2
50	Luxemburg	1
51	Latvia	1
52	Lybia	1
53	Morocco	2
54	Mongolia	14
55	Malta	3
56	Mexico	6
57	Malaysia	6
58	Nigeria	9
59	The Netherlands	33
60	Norway	7
61	Nepal	1
62	New Zealand	22
63	Oman	2
64	Philippines	2
65	Pakistan	3
66	Poland	17
67	Puerto Rico	2
68	Portugal	14
69	Romania	8
70	Russia	11

27	Ethiopia	5	71	Sweden	19
28	Finland	23	72	Singapore	19
29	France	13	73	Slovenia	4
30	Gibraltar	1	74	Slovakia	2
31	Greece	7	75	Switzerland	1
32	Hong Kong China	11	76	Thailand	3
33	Hungary	18	77	Tunisia	1
34	Indonesia	19	78	Turkey	29
35	Ireland	6	79	Trinidad and Tobago	11
36	Israel	13	80	Ukraine	14
37	India	33	81	United Kingdom	109
38	Iran	3	82	United States	109
39	Iceland	2	83	Venezuela	2
40	Italy	21	84	Viet Nam	2
41	Jamaica	3	85	South Africa	29
42	Japan	35	86	Zimbabwe	1
43	Kenya	3	87	Unknown	50
44	Kyrgyzstan	1		Total	1,238

B. Meetings and programmes of work

The meetings organized by the Commission on Geographical Education 2020 - 2024 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 2021 Conference, Prague, Czechia. Between August 10 to-13, 2021 the IGU CGE Conference 2021 was held in Prague, Czechia. The main conference theme was "Making connections: Cooperation and networking in geography education". The primary conference mission was to bring researchers and geography educators from all over the world to Prague to build and strengthen research networks and personal connections. Given the current pandemic situation, the conference was organized in a hybrid format – for the first time in the history of CGE. As a first keynote speaker, Michael Solem (Texas State University, USA) focused on the issue of "School geography, achievement, and education debts: What do we owe young people?" The second keynote speaker, Tine Béneker (Utrecht University, the Netherlands), gave a talk on "Connecting everyday knowledge to school knowledge and scholarly knowledge." Both keynote lectures were recorded. The recordings will be uploaded on the CGE website soon. Almost ninety delegates from Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa, North America and Latin America attended the sessions. Approximately, thirty of them attended in person and fifty-five participated online using a virtual platform. This conference was jointly hosted by the Centre for Geographical and Environmental Education, the Faculty of Science, Charles University, and the Czech Geographical Society.

CGE Webinar 2021: Opportunities and Challenges for Geographical Education around the world during COVID and post COVID times. The Commission organized two webinars on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on geographical education around the world. While Part 1 includes examples from countries in Australia, Asia and Europe, Part 2 dealt with cases of North America and Africa. Each webinar includes a 5-10 minute talk by each panel member describing the issues in their respective countries and this is followed by a Q&A session. The two webinars were streamed live on the Commission's Facebook page and a total of 1350 people were reached for both webinars.

Steering Committee Meeting The average number of participants in a Steering group meeting was 7-10 and the number of participants in an open discussion session during a conference of congress was 15-50. The average number of meetings (in the categories 1-5 above) during a year was 4.

Progress on Programmes of Work established in 2020-2024

This programme of work also includes the main issues discussed during the meetings of the Commission. The Steering Committee of the Commission identified five areas of work for the period 2020- 2024.

1. **Enhance the reputational capital of the CGE.** 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 a even stronger digital presence. In 2021, the social media account on Facebook reached 2,803 people. Almost half of the people reached were through the two webinars organized by the commission.
2. **Grow the CGE network.** The 2016- 2020 Commission has greatly widened the reach and draw of the Commission and the IGU. 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. In 2021, the CGE network has reached 87 territories/countries.
3. **Raise the quality of geography education research.** The 2020 - 2024 Commission will seek to promote and enhance high quality geography education research. This will build on the work of the 2016 - 2020 Commission which published several books in a book series, and a valuable bibliography of important works in the field, and in the 2016 the International Charter on Geographical Education (the Charter). 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 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. In 2021, IRGEE has improved in its impact metrics and 2 new books were published through the Commission Book Series (see details in publications section below).
5. **Strengthen research to practice applications.** There is an increasing diversification of research applicable to geography education. 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 community. A series of workshops for early career academics has been planned for 2022.

Additional Projects of the Commission in 2021

1. **Wikipedia pages about geography education:** Commission decided that there was not enough information on geography education provided through the Wikipedia page (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Geography_education), so a group of scholars started the Wikipedia page update project in 2021. With the approval of and support from the IGU-CGE Steering Committee, Joop van der Schee, Nina Scholten, and Susan Caldis have been working on the project.

C. Networking

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

1. **Collaboration with iGeo Task Force** - to help the local organizers prepare the 2021 International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) in Istanbul, Turkey. Especially, a number of the Commission members participated in the iGeo as national team leaders which was held on August 11-15 at Istanbul Technical University.
2. **Continued Support to the Society for Environmental Map Education** - through the 31st Asahikawa Children's Environmental Map Contest in October 2021. 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

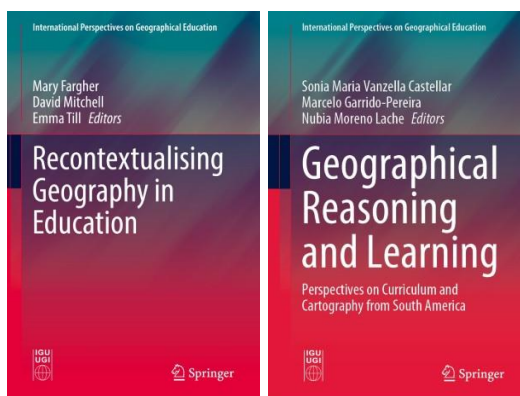
The Commission continues to publish regular newsletters by the WordPress and lodged them on the Commission website (www.igu-cge.org).

1. The Commission continues to publish *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education (IRGEE)* through Taylor and 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.

The flagship journal of the commission continues to grow in its impact. IRGEE has improved in all its metrics. Full paper download has increased and IRGEE has been ranked Q1 in Education and Q2 in Geography journals. The journal's Cite score has also increased from 2.3 in 2019 to 3.1 in 2020 with an accompanying h-index at 28 for 2020. Indices for 2021 will only be available in 2022.

2. The Commission publishes a book series "International Perspectives on Geographical Education" through Springer. ISSN: 2367-2773. There are currently six titles in the series, and two has been published in 2021:
 - a. Fargher, M., Mitchell, D., & Till, E. (Eds). (2021). *Recontextualising Geography in Education*. Springer.

- b. Castellar, S. M. V., Garrido-Pereira, M., & Lache, N. M. (2021). *Geographical Reasoning and Learning*. 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 for an archive of the Newsletters of the Commission.

The current accurate URL of the commission's web site: The current web site of the Commission on Geographical 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 Symposium in Rennes, France (July 12-13 2022). The 2022 IGU CGE Conference will be held in Rennes, France July 12-13 2022. The conference under the theme of “Teaching Geography: Past and Future Challenges” will provide an important channel for the exchange of knowledge and experiences among researchers. The Organizing Committee has launched the conference homepage, has set key dates and is now inviting papers. <https://ugicge.sciencesconf.org/>

The commission will also be supporting the [IGU-UGI Centennial Congress, Paris 2022 in July 2022 and will be organising sessions based on papers submitted from the congress.](#)

*This ends the 2021 annual report and is respectfully submitted to the Executive Committee of the International Geographical Union by
Professor Chew-Hung Chang and Professor Michael Solem
on behalf of the 2020-2024 Steering Group of the IGU Commission on Geographical Education.*