



International Geographical  
Union Commission on Health  
and the Environment  
(IGU CHE)



## **REPORT 2021 OF INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT (IGU CHE)**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Professors Paula Santana and Thomas Krafft remained as Chair of the IGU CHE until December 2021, when the Chair passed to Professor Helen Gurgel and the Scientific Secretary to Professor Eva Pilot.

Thus, the report is divided into the activities carried out in the period 2020-21, when Professors Paula Santana and Thomas Krafft were the chairs, and the proposed activities for the next period from 2022 to 2024.

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### ***Activities during the mandate period 2020-21***

#### **Team composition IGU-CHE (2017-2021)**

##### **Co-Chairpersons:**

Thomas Krafft, Co-Chair (Netherlands)

University of Maastricht / e-mail: [thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Paula Santana, Co- Chair (Portugal)

University of Coimbra/ e-mail: [paulasantana.coimbra@gmail.com](mailto:paulasantana.coimbra@gmail.com)

##### **Steering Committee Members:**

Raul Guimarães, Steering Committee Member (Brazil)

State University of São Paulo / e-mail: [raulguimaraes@uol.com.br](mailto:raulguimaraes@uol.com.br)

Liliana Dumitrache, Steering Committee Member (Romania)

University of Bucarest / e-mail: [dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com](mailto:dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com)

Yang Linsheng, Steering Committee Member (China)

Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) /e-mail: [yangls@igsnrr.ac.cn](mailto:yangls@igsnrr.ac.cn)

Svetlana Malkhazova, Steering Committee Member (Russia)

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Sarah Lovell, Steering Committee Member (New Zealand)  
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Aminata Niang-Diene, Steering Committee Member (Senegal)  
Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal/ [aminata.niang@ucad.edu.sn](mailto:aminata.niang@ucad.edu.sn)

Susan Elliott, Steering Committee Member (Canada)  
University of Waterloo / e-mail: [susan.elliott@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:susan.elliott@uwaterloo.ca)

Julie Vallee, Steering Committee Member (France),  
CNRS, Paris, France / e-mail: [julie.vallee@parisgeo.cnrs.fr](mailto:julie.vallee@parisgeo.cnrs.fr)

### ***Activities of IGU CHE 2020-21***

A detailed account of the activities of IGU-CHE can be obtained from the bi-annual reports provided to the IGU (most recent 2018-19). Annual reports are also available as download from the IGU-CHE webpage. Achievements include inter alia:

- IGU-CHE in close collaboration with a couple of national specialty groups (on Health Geography) has been facilitating and supporting (a) the International Medical Geographical Symposium, a bi-annual conference of the English-speaking health geography community, and (b) GEOSAUDE, the equivalent for the Portuguese and Spanish speaking communities. Both conferences have grown with the support from IGU-CHE and are well recognized international platforms for scientific debates attracting participant from various academic and professional disciplines.
- IGU-CHE has further developed its annual training workshops on Global Environmental Health and Future Earth that are organized in collaboration with the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Since the introduction of the training several hundred of Chinese and international graduate and PhD students have been trained by an international faculty of eminent health geographers.
- IGU-CHE and members of its steering committee have taking prominent roles in organizing and supporting the International Conferences on Urban Health (ICUH) in Coimbra (2017), Kampala (2018) and Xiamen (2019). In addition, special workshops were organized together with the Healthy Polis initiative at the occasion of the ICUH.
- Every year of the current mandate period IGU-CHE has through its steering committee members organized a special issue of an international scientific journal on selected topics with high relevance to the scientific debate in our community.

- With the sub-commission “Health Geography Researcher Network”, jointly chaired by Claudia Costa and Eva Pilot, IGU-CHE has been able to extend its membership, outreach and international professional network significantly.
- By linking to a number of highly relevant flagship projects (like the EuroHealthy Project) developed and steered by members of its steering committee, IGU-CHE could further strengthen its scientific discourse and outreach.

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### ***IGU CHE proposal mandate 2022-2024***

#### **Team composition IGU-CHE (2022-2024)**

The IGU CHE team is selected for one mandate period. A maximum of 12 steering group members are allowed. The main aspects guiding the selection of IGU CHE steering group members are geographic distribution, active in health geography, involvement in IGU CHE activities, gender balance and willingness to contribute actively to the commission work. Selection takes place at IGU CHE meetings linked to key conferences. IGU general assembly has to approve the steering group.

**Chair:** Helen Gurgel, Chair (Brazil)

University of Brasilia e-mail: [helengurgel@unb.br](mailto:helengurgel@unb.br)

**Scientific Secretary:** Eva Pilot (Netherlands)

Maastricht University / e-mail: [eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

#### **Steering Group Members:**

Yang Linsheng, Steering Committee Member (China)

Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) /e-mail: [yangls@igsnr.ac.cn](mailto:yangls@igsnr.ac.cn)

Liliana Dumitrache, Steering Committee Member (Romania)

University of Bucharest / e-mail: [dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com](mailto:dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com)

Blaise Nguendo Yongsi, Steering Committee Member (Cameroun)

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Sarah Lovell, Steering Committee Member (New Zealand)

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Aminata Niang-Diene, Steering Committee Member (Senegal)

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Julie Vallee, Steering Committee Member (France)

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Susan Elliott, Steering Committee Member (Canada)  
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Dagmar Dzurova, Steering Committee Member (Czech Republic)  
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Ricardo Almendra, Steering Committee Member (Portugal)  
University of Coimbra / e-mail: [ricardoalmendra85@gmail.com](mailto:ricardoalmendra85@gmail.com)

### **Honourable Members:**

To honour and recognise their valuable contribution to the scientific field and their long-term leadership, the IGU CHE has extended honorary memberships to:

Prof. Yola Verhasselt (Belgium)  
Académie Royales des Sciences d'Outre-Mer / e-mail: [yola.verhasselt@skynet.be](mailto:yola.verhasselt@skynet.be)

Prof. David Phillips (Hong Kong)  
Lingnan University / e-mail: [phillips@Ln.edu.hk](mailto:phillips@Ln.edu.hk)

Prof. Mark W. Rosenberg (Canada)  
Queen's University / e-mail: [mark.rosenberg@queensu.ca](mailto:mark.rosenberg@queensu.ca)

Prof. Wuyi Wang (China)  
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Prof. Paula Santana (Portugal)  
University of Coimbra/ e-mail: [paulasantana.coimbra@gmail.com](mailto:paulasantana.coimbra@gmail.com)

Prof. Thomas Krafft (Netherlands)  
University of Maastricht / e-mail: [thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

### **Sub-Commission - Health Geography Researcher Network**

**Co-Chairs:** Claudia Costa (Portugal), Eva Pilot (Netherlands)

**Members:** currently updated

**Health Geography Researchers Network aims to** reach out to the health geography community, engage with young researchers, enlarge IGU CHE activities, and engage additional members beyond the restricted IGU CHE steering group.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Health-Geography-Researcher-Network-779298652122288/>

**Website:** <http://www.healthgeography.org>

### ***IGU CHE proposal activates 2022-2024***

The International Geographical Union's Commission on Health and Environment (IGU-CHE) comprises scientists and professionals in Health Geography, Environmental Health and Public Health that apply, discuss and further develop geographic methods and thought in their research, work and academic teaching. Members of the IGU Commission on Health and the Environment carry out research on health and health care in the natural and built environment recognising the importance of gender, diversity and equity in a globalised world.

The strategic foci for the mandate period 2021 to 2024 as agreed by the commission are:

1. The research on the quality of life, sustainability and health equity with an emphasis on health, healthcare and the environment at various geographic scales;
2. Environmental change: Direct and indirect impacts of land use and climate change on health. Focusing on actions to adapt to associated environmental events and their health consequences that are exacerbated by extreme events;
3. Understanding the drivers and consequences of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases to support health system strengthening and societal resilience and equity, including health preparedness & response and participation & governance, focusing specifically on the One Health approach;
4. Research on health in all policies and especially urban health towards a green economy with a specific focus on vulnerable groups and healthy environments;
5. Research on communication and risk behaviour in epidemic situations to scientifically support communication with society to combat fake news and help confront problems of health risk;
6. Promote discussions to highlight intertwined links among global changes, global health, migration and the environment.

These foci reflect both the continuation of the previous work carried out by IGU-CHE and the strategic aim to contribute to and further strengthen important international initiatives like Future Earth, One Health, Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment. The aforementioned strategic foci are also defined in view of the necessary scientific contributions to the environmental health components during the UN Decade of Action to deliver Sustainable Development Goals. IGU-CHE members are active in many national and international initiatives and continue to represent IGU in these relevant initiatives over the mandate period 2021-2024. They contribute as health geographers to the international efforts to improve global health and global health governance. IGU-CHE provides a platform for its members in collaboration with the members of the various national and regional (health geography) speciality groups to discuss, define and further develop concepts, conceptual frameworks and curricula related to health geography and the emerging fields of global health and planetary health.

**Suggested IGU CHE Steering group meetings:** 3 meetings per year

**Reports:** yearly

**Newsletters:** currently no capacity, hopefully at a later stage. The IGU CHE report and IGU central newsletter will be forwarded to all commission and sub-commission members as the current dissemination strategy. If someone wants to get engaged with helping to facilitate a newsletter, kindly reach out to Eva Pilot.

**IGU CHE Website:** <https://www.iguhep.org> | This website will be updated. The domain name refers to IGU HEP- Health Environment and Public Health

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Health-Geography-Researcher-Network-779298652122288/> | Publicise actions in Health and Environment (e.g. events and job and training)

**International Health Geography Award:** IGU Health Geography award – linked to (evaluation form/poster/oral presentation)

The Health Geography award aims to create visibility and acknowledgement for scientists with a specific focus on early careers. Two prizes will be given at each linked event one oral paper presentation and one poster presentation. The award will be connected to the following international events.

Geosaude (Next event in Portugal 2022, Brazil 2023),  
IMGS (Next event in Edinburgh, Scotland 2022),  
IGU Conference and Congress (Next event in Paris, France 2022)

The commission is supporting the award with 100 Euro per winner.

**IGU CHE budget:** All members contribute to the commission work without receiving financial compensation. The commission is supported by the general IGU grant of 1500 Euro yearly. This support needs to be requested yearly (Michael Meadows [michael.meadows@uct.ac.za](mailto:michael.meadows@uct.ac.za)) Current balance on the IGU CHE account is \$5532.92 (Budget holder: Mark Rosenberg) Currently, the budget is used to maintain the websites and contribute to the international health geography award.

**Upcoming conferences:**

- IGU Paris, France from 18-22 July 2022 <https://www.ugiparis2022.org>

Health Geography sessions listed at the IGU in Paris are the following:

- Disasters and Human Health (organised by IGU CHE)
- Urban Health Equity (organised by IGU CHE)
- Environment and Health: Final Spurt towards the SDGs 2030(organised by IGU CHE)
- Everyday Activities, Places, and Wellbeing (organised by IGU CHE)
- Health and Environment in the tropical Regions (organised by IGU CHE)
- Climate and Health (organised by Climate commission)
- E-Health and Territories (organised by Geography of Information, Innovation)

and Technology)

All sessions of the IGU are listed under the following link

[https://www.ugiparis2022.org/upload/UGI\\_Commission\\_Session\\_UGI2022.pdf](https://www.ugiparis2022.org/upload/UGI_Commission_Session_UGI2022.pdf)

- IMGS Edinburgh, Scotland from 19-24th of June 2022 <https://imgs2022.org>  
Session on Public Health surveillance beyond numbers submitted
- Geosaude, Portugal 2022
- GeoSaude Manaus, Brasil 2023