

C20.38 Research Methods in Geography Annual Report 2021

A. Membership

The Commission on “Research Methods in Geography” includes two joint chairs and eight Steering Committee members, three from Human Geography and five from Physical Geography. Given the relevance of its mission and the heterogeneity of its contents, the Commission aims at recruiting two new Steering Committee members in 2022 prior approval by the Executive Committee.

A.1 Steering Committee

Dan Malkinson (Co-Chair)

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
University of Haifa, Mt. Carmel, Haifa 3498838, Israel
dmalk@geo.haifa.ac.il

Chiara Giubilaro (Co-chair)

Department of Architecture
University of Palermo, Viale delle Scienze Ed. 8, 90128, Palermo, Italy
chiara.giubilaro@unimib.it

Meghan Cope

Department of Geography
University of Vermont, Old Mill 94 University Pl, Burlington, VT 05405, USA
Meghan.Cope@uvm.edu

Iain Hay

College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide 5001, South Australia, Australia
iain.hay@flinders.edu.au

Narayan Chandra Jana

The University of Burdwan, Golapbag, Bardhaman – 713104, West Bengal, India
jana.narayan@gmail.com

Edivaldo Lopes Thomaz

Department of Geography
Universidade Estadual do Centro-Oeste-UNICENTRO, Alameda Élio Antonio Dalla
Vecchia Vila Carli 85040167 - Guarapuava, PR - Brasil

thomaz@unicentro.br

Karanja Faith Njoki

Department of Geospatial and Space Technology
University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 43851 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
faithkaranja@uonbi.ac.ke

Kun Song

School of Ecological and Environmental Sciences
East China Normal University, China
ksong@des.ecnu.edu.cn

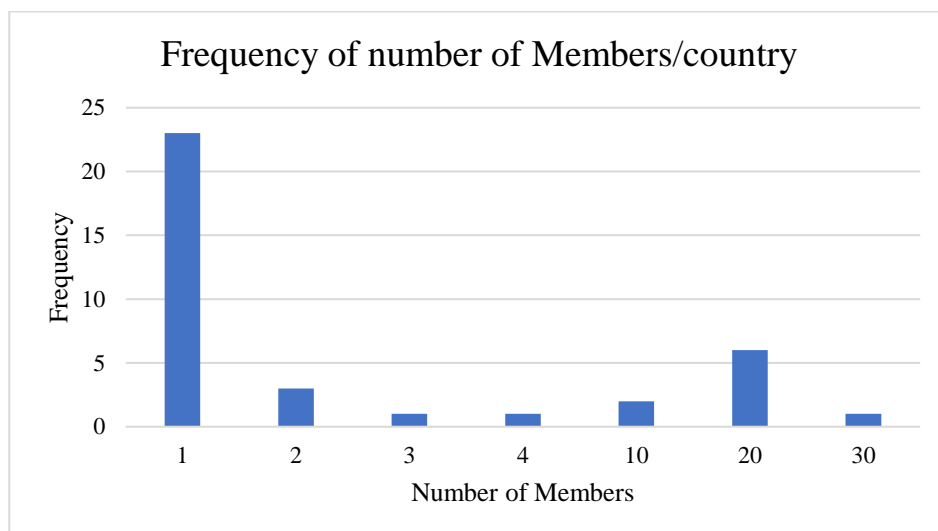
A.2 Corresponding members

During 2021 we began recruiting corresponding members to the commission. A total of 170 members from 33 countries joined the commission. Twenty-three countries are represented by a single member, and India (26 members) followed by Italy and the United Kingdom (20 members) are the countries with the largest number of registered members.

1.	Albania	1
2.	Australia	13
3.	Bangladesh	1
4.	Belgium	1
5.	Bolivia	1
6.	Brazil	11
7.	Canada	9
8.	Chile	1
9.	Czech Republic	1
10.	Denmark	1
11.	Ecuador	1
12.	Finland	1
13.	Gambia	1
14.	Germany	3
15.	Ghana	2
16.	India	26
17.	Indonesia	1

18.	Ireland	1
19.	Italia	20
20.	The Netherlands	2
21.	New Zealand	12
22.	Nigeria	1
23.	Portugal	1
24.	Samoa	1
25.	Slovenia	1
26.	South Africa	14
27.	Spain	1
28.	Sri Lanka	4
29.	Sweden	1
30.	Switzerland	1
31.	Turkey	2
32.	United Kingdom	20
33.	United States	10
TOT.		170

Number of members by country – by alphabetical order.



Distribution of the number of members per country

B. Meetings and Activities

During 2021 the Commission convened once, holding an online meeting on 3 Feb. 2021. The next meeting was planned to be physically held during the IGU 2021 Istanbul meetings, but was canceled given the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

B.1. Steering Committee Meetings

Online meeting – 3 Feb. 2021

The Committee discussed and approved a proposed session for the Istanbul IGU meetings. Due to the short time frame, the proposed session was not accepted to be held during the meetings. Consequently, it has been decided to hold the session during the IGU Paris 2022 meetings.

Website – the Committee discussed the structure of the commission's website (see below).

Commission workshops – the Commission has decided to pursue the organization of workshops, focusing on methodological aspects in various sub-disciplines of Geography.

2021 Conclusion meeting

Postponed to 28 January 2022. We will address the following topics: I) Organization of the keynote session at IGU-UGI Centennial Congress (Paris 2022), II) Budget and expenditure forecast, III) Recruitment of two new Steering Committee members, IV)

Schedule of forthcoming Commission activities, V) Potential collaboration with Frontiers Publishing Group.

2022 Meetings

In 2022 the Commission plans to hold at least three online Steering Committee meetings to discuss I) the organization of two virtual workshops on both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, II) the implementation of the existing network, III) the Commission newsletter.

B.2. Workshops and other activities

- **Workshops**

Within the framework of the Fire Effects on Soil Properties FESP 8 conference held in Guarapuava – Paraná – Brazil, 26-28 July 2021, the Commission in collaboration with the conference's organizing committee, facilitated the instruction of a Google Earth Engine (GEE)based workshop. The aim of the workshop was to expose the participants to freely available online platforms, which enable the users to perform image analysis of satellite imagery. In this case, the workshop focused on GEE to study wildfires.

- **Website**

The Commission's website has been fully developed and made accessible online at <https://igumethods.org/>
Through the "Join us" form on the website 158 geographers joined the Commission as corresponding members.

- **Collaboration with Publishing Groups (?)**

- **Providing resources for advancing publications in peer reviewed journals**

The commission has begun discussions with Frontiers Publishing Group to provide scientists from less-funded countries with various resources to encourage high-quality peer-reviewed publications. The potential collaboration includes webinars to be held conjointly with the publishing group, aimed at sharing information on the peer review process, and publishing practices which bring to high-quality publications. The commission intends to expand similar initiatives and collaborations with additional publishing groups.

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 2022 the Commission intends to involve the Young

and Early Career Geographers Task Force in the organization of an international virtual workshop on research methods in Geography.

The Commission's website is a fundamental tool in facilitating recruitment of members and networking with other commissions, associations, or institutions. The Steering Committee recognizes the importance of a strong online and social media presence and thanks to an IGU operating grant the Commission has created (I) a website based on CMS Wordpress for both desktop and mobile devices and (II) an original logo for the Commission. Social media will have a key role within the Commission communication strategy. A Facebook page and a Twitter account will be created in 2022.

As stated in section B2, the commission collaborated with the FESP international network. FESP is an informal academic organization, dedicated to the study of wildfires and their effects on various environmental properties, with a particular focus on soil. Within the framework of this collaboration the above mentioned workshop was held.

D. Publications

1. The current website of the Commission on Research Methods in Geography may be found at: <https://igumethods.org>. The website includes current details of all events and projects, publications and proposals as well as the list of the Steering Committee members.
2. In 2022 the Commission plans to publish regular newsletters and lodge them on the Commission website.

Iain Hay publications

1. **Hay, I.** & Allington, P. 2021, *Making the Grade. A Guide to Successful Communication and Study*, **5th edition**, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
2. **Hay, I.** & Cope, M. (eds.) 2021, *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*, **5th edition**, Oxford University Press, Toronto.
3. Cope, M. and **Hay, I.** 2021, 'Where are we now? Qualitative Research in Human Geography' in Hay, I. & Cope, M. (eds) *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*, 5th edn, Oxford University Press, Toronto, pp. 3-17.
4. 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
5. **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

6. **Hay, I.** 2020, 'Zoom and place: video conferencing and virtual geography', *South Australian Geographical Journal*, vol. 116, no. 1, pp. 7-11.
<https://doi.org/10.21307/sagj-2020-003>
7. **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
8. **Hay, I.** 2020, 'On geoscientisation: a response to Cupples', *New Zealand Geographer*,
<https://doi.org/10.1111/nzg.12247>

E. Archival contributions

None.