Annual Report 2022
(by Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, chair, and Walter Leimgruber, secretary)

A Membership

A 1 Steering committee 2020-2024

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A 2 Members

There are currently 319 persons from 54 countries on our member list, 103 females.

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B Meetings

The commission met on the occasion of the IGU Centennial Congress in Paris, July 18 - 22. Unfortunately, neither the chair nor the secretary could attend the event for health reasons.

We had announced three paper sessions with the general topic of marginality. They were organized and convened by Irène Carpentier (University of Montpellier), Martine Guibert (University of Toulouse – Jean Jaurès), and Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš/Ivan Šulc (University of Zagreb).

Two sessions were held in French and Spanish, the third in English. A total of 23 papers were presented. Three separate session reports had been transmitted to the secretary.

The three sessions had different foci. Session I on large agricultural projects was dominated by case studies from Africa and South America, Session II was fairly varied, ranging from demography to tourism. Session III concentrated on the Maghreb, particularly Morocco. Most of the presentations were in person, although in a few instances speakers or co-authors participated online.

Their overall impression was positive, and the papers offered a platform for methodological discussions as well as ideas for further research. Potential topics are spatial inequalities and how they are dealt with, the valorization of local resources, tourism and socio-economic development, and regional agricultural projects in the framework of a globalized economy and the environmental challenge.

Papers presented by session in chronological order:


1. Damien CALAIS, L’intégration des périphéries par le développement agricole aux Émirats arabes unis : des enjeux géopolitiques et sociaux à la compétitivité économique
3. Soledad Figueredo, Martine Guibert), Pedro Arbeletche, Lógicas productivas en clave dinámica. Los grandes agricultores en Uruguay
4. Eve Anne Bühler, Júlia Adão Bernardes, Roberta Arruzzo, Bruno Zucherato, Dans le sillon des grands projets agricoles : l’appropriation illégale de terres dans le Xingu-Araguáia (Mato Grosso - Brésil)
5. Bruna Albuquerque, Samuel Frederico, Martine Guibert, Grands projets agricoles et conflits fonciers dans le Sud du Piauí (Brésil) : appropriation foncière et reconnaissance des populations locales
7. Akoua Assunta Adaye, Projet hétéroclite et sécurité alimentaire des ménages de la Sous-préfecture de Famienkr, en Côte d’Ivoire
8. Nicole Bernex, Agroindustrie et stratégies d’occupation territoriale, département de Loreto (Amazonie péruvienne)
9. Célia Auquier, Anaïs Marshall, La permanence d’une action publique guidée par la logique de grand projet agricole. Les cas des projets Chavimochic et Olmos sur la côte péruvienne

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II. Global and Regional Inequalities. What does the past teach us for the future? (20 July, Ivan Šulc)

12. Ivan Šulc, Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, (Post)pandemic tourism as a new challenge to marginal areas – selected case studies of mountain and remote island destinations in Croatia

13. Moira O’Neill, Dispatches from the Cold War: The geography of defense spending as a driver of socio-spatial inequality

14. Mihail Eva, Alexandra Cehan, Ema Corodescu-Rosca, Sébastien Bourdin, Spatial patterns of regional inequalities: empirical evidence from a large panel of countries

15. Alfonso Vita, Paulo Nossa, Fernanda Cravidão, The geography(s) of the slave route(s) in Angola: developing the future and rescuing the past through memory tourism


III. La valorisation internationale du local au sud de la Méditerranée : entre impasses et recompositions territoriales (21 July, Irène Carpentier)

17. Damiano De Facci, L’entrepreneuriat au Maghreb comme instrument de développement local : les limites d’une politique publique

18. Salima Salhi, Said Boujrouf, L’inadaptation des actions publiques et globales dans les ‘zones cachées’ au développement territorial standardisé de la région de Marrakech Safi- Maroc

19. Merryl Joly, L’hébergement touristique : un nouvel enjeu de régulation et de gouvernance pour les pouvoirs publics marocains

20. Sihem Kdada, Brahim Badidi, Les nouveaux dispositifs de mise en valeur des produits de l’oléiculture : outil de recomposition des systèmes de production et des territoires d’”arrière-pays” au Maroc


An additional paper session on “Plight of the Marginalized Women in the Developing World” had been announced by Mohana Basu (India), but the plan could not be realized for technical reasons.

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 2022.
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 2022. They are a means to maintain contact and inform members of specific events or new publications.

D.2 Books and other publications

Two more volumes in the Springer Series ‘Perspectives on Geographical Marginality’ have been published or are in production.

1. Edited by Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, Etienne Nel and Stanko Pelc, it comprises 16 chapters on COVID-19 and Marginalization of People and Places. It is a first attempt to assess the consequences of the pandemic from the Commission’s perspective (volume 7).


The series will be continued.

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 Commision has also a page on Facebook, maintained by Prof. Daichi Kohmoto (Kobe University, Japan)
https://www.facebook.com/GeographicalMarginality

Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš, Walter Leimgruber
Zagreb/Fribourg, 30.11.2022