



Applied Geography Commission: Activity Report for 2022

Membership

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The Applied Geography Commission is comprised of 140 members from 27 countries:

Country	Number of members
Australia	5
Canada	2
Switzerland	1
Chile	1
China	4
Estonia	2
Finland	1
France	8
Greece	1
Ireland	2
Israel	22
Japan	2
Italy	2
South Korea	1
Netherlands	3
Norway	1
New Zealand	1
Poland	2
Portugal	1
Romania	1
Russia	1
Sweden	1
Tunisia	1
UK	41
USA	17
South Africa	1
Unknown	15
Total	138

Meetings

Sessions at the UGI-IGU Centennial Congress in Paris, 18-22 July 2022

The AGC organised two sessions at the UGI-IGU Centennial Congress in Paris, 18-22 July 2022 with the theme of **Modelling Individual Behaviour In An Applied Geography Context**. Eight papers were presented, which covered a diverse spectrum of applied geography topics:

- Mind the Gender Gap in Ride-Hailing: Two Hypotheses and A Preliminary Investigation, Si QIAO, *The University of Hong Kong*, Hong Kong

- Risk places in Bangkok through foreign tourists' crime scene mapping, Chomchid PHROMSIN, *Geography Dept. Kasetsart University, Thailand*
- The Effect of a Minimum Unit Price of Alcohol on the Drinking Habits and Related Health Outcomes for England's Future Elderly Population, Luke ARCHER, *The University of Leeds, United Kingdom*
- A105363RC - Reviewing the State of Transition Probabilities for Dynamic Microsimulation: A Case Study for Mental Health and Employment, Robert CLAY, *University of Leeds, United Kingdom*
- Small area population projection: inputs to behavioural and demand models, Nik LOMAX, *The Alan Turing Institute, United Kingdom*
- Generation of a synthetic population and simulation of daily individual mobilities from multi-source data (Bangkok, Thailand) in a dengue epidemic context, Alexandre CEBEILLAC, *CNRS, France*
- Scaling the Dynamic Micro-simulation Model for Epidemics (DyME) for National Policy Analytics, Dustin CARLINO, *Alan Turing Institute, United Kingdom*
- Do we need GPS for that? Differences between dynamic and static measurements of environmental exposures among seniors in Barcelona, Oriol MARQUET, *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain*

Session Abstract

Individual level data is becoming increasingly available for research purposes. This takes the form of more traditional datasets such as surveys and census microdata as well as emerging 'digital footprint' data such as those produced by mobile phones, wearable technology (e.g. accelerometers), store card transactions and travel cards. Alongside this plethora of data, there also exist established and emerging methods for creating representative synthetic data which can be used for research purposes.

In order to utilize these datasets, a range of methods exist which can be used to undertake analysis and provide insight. These include, but are not limited to Agent Based Models (ABMs), Microsimulation Models, survey data analysis methods and GIS based methods. Methods also exist for creating spatially representative synthetic data based on these datasets, for example spatial microsimulation models are often used to reweight non-spatial survey microdata.

This session is focused on the modelling of individual behavior and the use of individual level data to provide broader insights in to societal outcomes. Individual level in this context is broadly defined, it could be people, households or any other entity which can be modelled as a single unit of analysis. Submissions are welcome which articulate how these methods and models are utilized to provide insight in an applied context. The application areas of research concerned with individual level modelling are broad, spanning transport, health, employment, education and beyond so this session seeks to capture this breadth.

Submissions which clearly articulate how methods are applied to these datasets to provide insight into behavior or societal outcomes are particularly welcome.

The session format will consist of presentations with time for questions and answers. Submissions are encouraged to make use of innovative visual methods and as such video exemplars, demonstrations of models in action and other interactive forms of presentation are welcome. This session will be delivered in a face-to-face setting where possible.



Figure 1: view of the Eiffel Tower from the river boat hosting the 34th Congress Gala Dinner.

Plans for 2023 standalone symposium and participation in the 2024 Congress

2023 Symposium

The Applied Geography Commission are collaborating with the Commission on Population Geography and the Department of Geography, University of the Aegean to organize a symposium:

The relevance of Applied Population Geography Research

Hosted at the University of the Aegean, Lesbos, Greece, 19 – 22 September 2023

Abstract submission deadline: 28 February 2023

Population studies research encapsulates a wide range of topics and issues, from the study of demographic components (migration, births/fertility, deaths/mortality) through different population-related behaviours and interactions. Much of this research is inherently applied: for example, where the findings have important policy relevance or seeks to offer solutions to grand societal problems and the contemporary perma-crisis, such as climate-change/emergency migration, relocations and exclusions tied to the cost-of-living challenges and the restructuring of the global economy, displaced populations seeking asylum or refuge. However, there is also space for more theoretical or conceptual contributions that explain these enduring or unfolding population processes and patterns, as well as contributions that make incremental contributions to understanding, developing existing techniques and methods, and identifying and utilising novel datasets. This meeting brings together researchers from across the broad domains of population studies, population geography and applied geography to debate the relevance of applied population studies research: how much of a difference does population research really make in driving change and enhancing broader knowledge(s)?

The call for papers is open to anyone with an interest in applied population geography. The organising committee will select six to eight abstracts for inclusion in a potential special issue of *Population, Space and Place* which deal with the symposium's theme of *The relevance of Applied Population Geography Research*. Please specify within your submission if you would like your paper to be considered for the special issue on this particular topic area.

Plans for the 35th International Geographical Congress, Dublin, 2024

The AGC intends to call on members to submit session proposals which capture the breadth of applied geography research going on around the world. The invitation to members will be issued once the call from the Congress becomes available.

Congress Pre-meeting

The AGC plan to invite members to a focused workshop before the Congress, with a view to inviting contributions to a journal Special Issue on *Big Data in Applied Geography*.

Networking

The Applied Geography Commission are working collaboratively with the Population Geography Commission of the IGU in the organisation of the 2023 Symposium on *The relevance of Applied Population Geography Research*. The two commissions will also

organize a special issue of Population, Space and Place which deal with the symposium's theme.

Productive Use of previous IGU grant

The last time that the Commission utilised the IGU grant was to offset the cost of attendance for four young scholars at the annual meeting in L'Aquila, Italy on June 17-19, 2019. We intend to utilise the grant going forward to support the 2023 joint meeting in Lesvos, and the 2024 pre-Congress meeting and the 2024 Congress sessions being run by the AGC.

The up-to-date committee website can be found here: <https://agcigu.wordpress.com/>