

Research Methods in Geography Annual Report 2022

A. Membership

The Commission on “Research Methods in Geography” includes two joint chairs and eight Steering Committee members, five from Human Geography and five from Physical Geography. Given the relevance of its mission and the heterogeneity of its contents, the Commission decided to recruit two new Steering Committee members in April 2022 prior approval by the Executive Committee. Ten applicants responded to the [call](#): 5 from the United Kingdom, 2 from New Zealand, 1 from Ireland, 1 from Bangladesh, 1 from Egypt. Applications by Manzurul Hassan (Bangladesh) and Adel Moatamed Abdulhamied (Egypt) could not be accepted (Physical Geography). The Steering Committee considered three primary criteria for selecting the candidates: 1) gender - as to maintain gender balance in the committee, 2) geographic location, and 3) methods the candidate brings with him/her to the committee.

After reviewing CVs and cover letters and discussing candidates’ profiles, the Steering Committee members voted to include Sara Mills and Charles Travis in the Steering Committee.

A.1 Steering Committee

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A.2 Corresponding members

During 2022 the Commission witnessed an increase in the number of Corresponding Members. A total of 288 members from 42 countries joined the commission (1 December 2022). 25 countries are represented by a single member, and India (101 members) followed by the United Kingdom (24 members) and Italy (23 members) are the countries with the largest number of registered members.

1.	Albania	1
2.	Australia	14
3.	Bangladesh	14

21.	Italy	23
22.	Japan	1
23.	Korea	1

4.	Belgium	1
5.	Bolivia	1
6.	Brazil	14
7.	Canada	9
8.	Chile	1
9.	China	3
10.	Czech Republic	1
10.	Denmark	1
11.	Ecuador	1
12.	Ethiopia	1
13.	Finland	1
14.	Gambia	2
15.	Germany	3
16.	Ghana	3
17.	Greece	1
18.	Hungary	1
19.	India	101
20.	Indonesia	1
21.	Ireland	1

24.	Luxembourg	1
25.	Mauritius	1
26.	The Netherlands	2
27.	New Zealand	12
28.	Nigeria	5
29.	Peru	1
30.	Poland	1
31.	Portugal	1
32.	Samoa	1
33.	Slovenia	1
34.	South Africa	15
35.	Spain	1
36.	Sri Lanka	4
37.	Sweden	1
38.	Switzerland	2
39.	Turkey	2
40.	United Kingdom	24
41.	United States	11
42.	Zambia	1
TOT.		288

B. Meetings and Activities

During 2022 the Commission convened three times, holding online meetings on 28 January 2022, 15 June 2022 and 22 September 2022. Moreover, the Commission organized a hybrid session at the IGU Centennial Congress in Paris on 18 July 2022.

B.1. Steering Committee Meetings

Online meeting – 28 Jan. 2022

The Committee 1) discussed and approved a proposed virtual keynote session for the IGU Paris 2022 Centennial Congress, 2) decided to recruit two additional new Steering Committee members, and defined the guidelines for selecting the new members. A call to share on the Commission website was drafted, 3) discussed the possibility to establish a collaboration with Frontiers Publishing Group, 4) considered to organize a virtual workshop series to be held in winter 2022/spring 2023.



Online meeting – 15 June 2022

The Committee 1) defined the Paris Centennial Congress keynote session program and discussed the financial aspects related to it, 2) selected two additional Steering Committee members (see above), 3) decided to organize a kick-off workshop to open the IGU Methods virtual workshops series, 4) discussed potential collaborations with publishing groups.

Online meeting – 22 September 2022

The Committee 1) welcomed the new Steering Committee members Sarah Mills and Charles Travis, 2) proposed a re-organization of the Commission tasks into four different subcommittees:

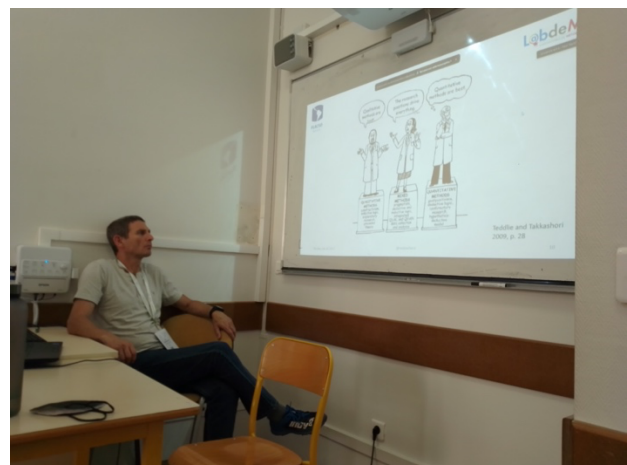
- Activities (Chiara Giubilaro, Dan Malkinson, Faith Njoki Karanja, Sarah Mills, Meghan Cope, Narayan Chandra Jana)
- Communications and Membership (Meghan Cope, Sarah Mills, Chiara Giubilaro)
- Resource mobilization (Charles Travis, Kun Song)
- Networking (Edivaldo Lopes Thomaz, Iain Hay, Dan Malkinson)

3) decided to organize a roundtable with a focus on innovative research practices in Human and Physical Geography after (and amidst) COVID-19 on January 2023; 4) started to schedule “Methods in Geography. A series of virtual workshops on research methods in Human and Physical Geography” (three/four workshops per year), 5) reported about the collaborations with ESRI and SAGE Methodspace, 6) discussed the possibility to propose a special issue to Urban Geography on innovative methods in the field of Urban Geography with a focus on Global South (deadline March 2023).



IGU Paris Centennial Congress | Keynote session – 18 July 2022

The Commission organized a session at the IGU Centennial Congress in Paris. The session titled “Time for Methods” aimed at promoting a critical and constructive dialogue on established and emerging geographical research methods, bridging qualitative and quantitative approaches, techniques, and methodologies. Prof. Raul Pacheco-Vega (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Mexico) presented a keynote lecture on “Expanding Methodological Discussions in Geography: Mixed Methods and the Future of the Discipline”. After his presentation, Meghan Cope (University of Vermont, USA) and Faith Karanja Njoki (University of Nairobi, Kenya) discussed the challenges of mixed methods respectively from a Human Geography and Physical Geography perspective. 52 people (14 in-person and 38 online) attended the hybrid session and joined the final debate.



2023 Meetings

In 2023 the Commission plans to hold at least three online Steering Committee meetings to discuss I) the organization of the “Methods in Geography” series of virtual workshops, II) the implementation of the existing network, III) the organization of a Thematic Conference on research methods in 2024.

B.2. Workshops and other activities

- **Workshops**

During 2022 no workshops were carried out by the Commission.

As described above, we have established a working relationship with ESRI, and in collaboration with them we aim at holding three thematic 1-day workshops. The workshops are to be held online. In similar past events held by ESRI the number of attendees was several hundreds. In accordance with the vision of the Commission, we hope that the majority of participants will be from the Global South.

- **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 288 geographers joined the Commission as Corresponding Members (see the [map](#)).

- **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

Website and social media

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. Given Elon Musk's recent takeover of Twitter, the Commission is considering the possibility to launch a Mastodon account.

Collaborations

During 2022 the Commission explored the possibility of establishing a collaboration with publishing groups and software developers.

ESRI | Co-organization of three thematic workshops – as stated above, online GIS tutorial workshops are planned to be held during 2023. The workshops will be held free of charge and are provided in-kind together with ESRI.

SAGE Methodspace | Together with SAGE's Methodspace platform we intend to hold activities, such as blog postings and recorded podcasts.

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 2023 the Commission plans to publish regular newsletters and lodge them on the Commission website.

E. Archival contributions

Website: <https://igumethods.org/>

Newsletter #0 | February 2022 (see attachment)

Meeting photographs

See <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1syJ0MquibZVqwfZ9kcm7QfsZsLQOY7-I?usp=sharing>