

IGU Elections 2026

Secretary-General

Professor Barbaros GÖNENÇGİL, University of Istanbul
nominated by Turkey

Vice-President

Professor Fahu CHEN, Chinese Academy of Sciences
nominated by China

Senior Researcher Monica Ștefania DUMITRAȘCU, Romanian Academy
nominated by Romania

Professor Phil MCMANUS, University of Sydney
nominated by Australia

Professor Maria PARADISO, University of Naples Federico II
nominated by Italy

Professor Takashi Yamazaki, Osaka Metropolitan University
nominated by Japan

NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL



TÜRK COĞRAFYA KURUMU

Turkish Geographical Society

Prof. Nathalie Lemarchand
President of the International Geographical Union (IGU)
Présidente de l'Union Géographique Internationale (UGI)

Nomination of Professor Dr. Barbaros Gönençgil for the Position of Secretary General of the IGU

Dear Professor Lemarchand,

It is our great pleasure to nominate Professor Dr. Barbaros Gönençgil for the position of Secretary General of the IGU Executive Committee for the 2026–2030 term.

Professor Gönençgil has demonstrated long-standing commitment and distinguished service within the IGU. He previously served as Vice President (2016–2020) and has been serving as Secretary General since 2020, first for the 2020–2022 term and currently for 2022–2026. Throughout these roles, he has consistently shown exceptional dedication, enthusiasm, and diligence in advancing the mission and visibility of the IGU.

During his tenure as Vice President and Secretary General, Professor Gönençgil has actively contributed to numerous IGU initiatives and worked tirelessly to strengthen and disseminate IGU activities globally. Notably, he successfully led the organization of the 34th International Geographical Congress as Head of the Local Organizing Committee in a fully virtual format, demonstrating strong leadership under challenging circumstances. In addition, he organized the first virtual International Geography Olympiad as Head of the Local Organizing Committee, marking an important milestone for the IGU community.

In light of his experience, leadership, and sustained commitment to the Union, the Turkish Geographical Society and the IGU Turkish National Committee are pleased to formally recommend and strongly support Professor Gönençgil for the position of Secretary General for the 2026–2030 term.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Tolga Görüm
Vice President of Turkish Geographical Society
Chair, Turkish National Committee for IGU

Biographical Sketch of Prof. Dr. Barbaros GÖNENÇGİL



Prof. Dr. Barbaros Gonençgil was born in İstanbul. In 1987, he graduated from İstanbul University (İ.U.) Department of Geography. He received his master's degree and doctorate on Climatology at the University of İstanbul. In 1993, he started working as an assistant at İstanbul University Geography Department and he is currently the head of Geography Department, the head of Physical Geography Division in Geography Department and Open and Distance Education Faculty Geography Programme of İstanbul University. He is also a member of the İstanbul University Senate. Prof. Gonençgil is also the founder and the head of the Climate Change Division in İstanbul University Social Sciences Institute.

Prof. Dr. Gonençgil's study areas concentrate on climate and environment. The courses he teaches are also on the same subjects. He has approximately published 90 articles, papers and books and has more than 100 conference, symposium and panel presentations. In addition, he has taken part in about 20 projects as an executive and has published many articles in popular science magazines. He was a visiting professor in Socrates/Erasmus Teaching Staff Mobility Programme in University of Leipzig, Germany in Faculty of Physics and Geosciences, Institute of Geography in 2007. He was also visiting professor at Sorbonne and Paris 8 Universities in 2018 and 2022. He was one of the authors of Discovery Geographical Atlas published in Turkey.

Prof. Dr. Gonençgil is the President of Turkish Geographical Society. At the same time, he is the editor of the Journal of Turkish Geography and Journal of Geography. He has taken part in several trainings for Geography teachers, organized by Turkish Geographical Society. He was head of the Local Organizing Committee of the IGU/IGC 2021 İstanbul. He is also the LOC Chair of the 2026 IGU İstanbul Regional Conference and İgeo 2026 İstanbul. He also been serving as the National Coordinator of the Geography Olympiad since 2024.

Prof. Dr. Gonençgil has volunteered for many years in non-governmental organizations related with the environment. He is one of the founders of the Turkish Foundation for Environmental Education, which is a member of the International Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). At the same time he has worked for International Eco-Schools Program in Türkiye. He is a volunteer member of another environmental association in Türkiye, namely the Turkish Environmental and Woodlands Protection Society, founded in 1972. He was the chair of this society between the years of 2003 – 2012.

Since 2010, Prof. Dr. Gonençgil has been attending the IGU conferences and congresses. He is also the member of the local organizing committee in Türkiye for the International Geography Olympiad (iGEO). He attended 2012 and 2014 Geography Olympiads as a team

leader. Besides, he is member of Climatology and Mountain Commissions of IGU, and co-organizer of Commission of Mediterranean Basin (COMB) 2016 Annual Meeting in Türkiye.

He served as IGU VP between 2016 -2021, from 2021 he is IGU Secretary General.

Notice biographique du Prof. Dr. Barbaros GÖNENÇGİL



Barbaros Gonençgil est né à Istanbul. En 1987, il est diplômé du département de géographie de l'université d'Istanbul (İ.U.). Il a obtenu sa maîtrise et son doctorat en climatologie à l'université d'Istanbul. En 1993, il a commencé à travailler comme assistant au département de géographie de l'université d'Istanbul et il est actuellement directeur du département de géographie, directeur de la division de géographie physique du département de géographie et du programme de géographie de la faculté d'enseignement ouvert et à distance de l'université d'Istanbul. Il est également membre du Sénat de l'Université d'Istanbul. Le professeur Gonençgil est également le fondateur et le chef de la division du changement climatique à l'institut des

sciences sociales de l'université d'Istanbul.

Les domaines d'étude du professeur Gonençgil se concentrent sur le climat et l'environnement. Les cours qu'il donne portent également sur les mêmes sujets. Il a publié environ 90 articles, documents et livres et a fait plus de 100 présentations lors de conférences, de symposiums et de tables rondes. En outre, il a participé à une vingtaine de projets en tant que cadre et a publié de nombreux articles dans des magazines de vulgarisation scientifique. En 2007, il a été professeur invité dans le cadre du programme de mobilité du personnel enseignant Socrates/Erasmus à l'université de Leipzig, en Allemagne, à la faculté de physique et de géosciences, à l'institut de géographie. Il a également été professeur invité à la Sorbonne et à l'université Paris 8 en 2018 et 2022. Il est l'un des auteurs du Discovery Geographical Atlas publié en Turquie.

Le professeur Gonençgil est le président de la Société turque de géographie. Il est également rédacteur en chef du Journal of Turkish Geography et du Journal of Geography. Il a participé à plusieurs formations pour les professeurs de géographie, organisées par la Société turque de géographie. Il a dirigé le comité local d'organisation de l'IGU/IGC 2021 à Istanbul. Il est également le président du comité local d'organisation de la conférence régionale 2026 de l'UGI à Istanbul et il est également le coordinateur national de l'Olympiade de géographie depuis 2024.

Le professeur Gönençgil est bénévole depuis de nombreuses années dans des organisations non gouvernementales liées à l'environnement. Il est l'un des fondateurs de la Fondation turque pour l'éducation à l'environnement, qui est membre de la Fondation internationale pour l'éducation à l'environnement (FEE). Parallèlement, il a travaillé pour le programme international des éco-écoles en Turquie. Il est membre bénévole d'une autre association environnementale en Turquie, à savoir la Société turque de protection de l'environnement et des forêts, fondée en 1972. Il a été président de cette société entre 2003 et 2012.

Depuis 2010, le professeur Gönençgil participe aux conférences et aux congrès de l'UGI. Il est également membre du comité d'organisation local en Turquie pour l'Olympiade internationale de géographie (iGEO). Il a participé aux Olympiades de géographie 2012 et 2014 en tant que chef d'équipe. Il est également membre des commissions Climatologie et Montagne de l'UGI, et co-organisateur de la réunion annuelle 2016 de la Commission du bassin méditerranéen (COMB) en Turquie.

Il a été vice-président de l'UGI entre 2016 et 2021, et secrétaire général de l'UGI à partir de 2021.

Statement of Intent for the IGU Secretary General for 2026–2030

Prof. Dr. Barbaros GÖNENÇGİL

Nominated by Turkish Geographical Society

Over the coming years (2026–2030), geography will be asked to respond to a rapidly changing world shaped by accelerating environmental change, growing geopolitical-economic tensions, and a major transformation in how knowledge is produced and governed through data and digital technologies. In this context, I believe the International Geographical Union (IGU) should articulate a clear vision that positions geography not only as a discipline that explains spatial patterns, but also as a discipline that helps societies act wisely and fairly in the face of uncertainty.

In line with this understanding, I propose three priority themes that should be strongly reflected in the IGU vision for 2026–2030.

1. Climate Change, Extreme Events, and the Geography of Adaptation

Climate change has become a defining driver of spatial transformation at all scales, affecting settlements, ecosystems, public health, migration, water security, and economic development. While mitigation remains essential, the coming period will require an equally strong focus on adaptation, risk reduction, and resilience-building.

Geography offers unique tools to understand where and why vulnerabilities concentrate, how hazards interact with social inequalities, and which adaptation pathways are effective under different local conditions. The IGU should therefore encourage integrated research and education that strengthens climate risk literacy, supports evidence-based planning, and promotes just adaptation approaches that protect vulnerable communities.

2. Resource Geopolitics and Spatial Vulnerabilities in a Fragmenting World

The years ahead will likely witness heightened tensions around resources and strategic flows, including water, food, energy, critical minerals for the energy transition, and the infrastructure networks that connect regions and markets. These challenges are inherently geographical because they involve uneven distributions, cross-border interdependencies, contested territories, and shifting spatial priorities.

The IGU vision should place strong emphasis on the geography of resource security and on the spatial analysis of supply chains, corridors, ports, and chokepoints. It should also encourage collaboration between physical and human geography to better understand the coupled dynamics of environmental constraints, political decision-making, and economic restructuring.

3. Digital Transformation in Geography: GeoAI, Earth Observation, and Ethical Spatial Data Governance

Geography is entering a new era in which satellite constellations, sensors, real-time data streams, and geospatial artificial intelligence are reshaping research, education, and decision-making. These developments create major opportunities for early warning systems, disaster assessment, urban digital twins, and improved monitoring of environmental change.

At the same time, the expanding spatial data ecosystem raises fundamental questions about ethics, privacy, algorithmic bias, uneven data coverage, and the growing gap between data-rich and data-poor regions. The IGU should promote responsible innovation, open and inclusive geospatial capacity-building, and ethical standards that ensure that new technologies serve the public good and reduce inequalities rather than deepen them.

Concluding Remarks

If these three themes are framed as shared priorities, the IGU vision for 2026–2030 can strengthen geography’s role as a science of spatial understanding and a practice of spatial responsibility. By advancing climate adaptation and resilience, addressing resource-related geopolitical vulnerabilities, and guiding the digital transformation of geospatial knowledge with strong ethical principles, the IGU can help geography contribute more effectively to global sustainability, equity, and peace.

Déclaration d'intention pour le Secrétaire Général de l'Union Géographique Internationale (UGI) pour 2026–2030

Prof. Dr. Barbaros GÖNENÇGİL

Nommé par la Société Géographique Turque

Au cours des prochaines années (2026–2030), la géographie sera appelée à répondre à un monde en rapide mutation, façonné par l'accélération des changements environnementaux, la montée des tensions géopolitiques et économiques, ainsi que par une transformation majeure de la production et de la gouvernance des connaissances, portée par les données et les technologies numériques. Dans ce contexte, je suis convaincu que l'Union Géographique Internationale (UGI) doit formuler une vision claire, positionnant la géographie non seulement comme une discipline qui explique les dynamiques spatiales, mais aussi comme une discipline qui aide les sociétés à agir avec discernement et équité face à l'incertitude.

Dans cet esprit, je propose trois thèmes prioritaires qui devraient être affirmés avec force dans la vision de l'UGI pour 2026–2030.

1. Changement climatique, événements extrêmes et géographie de l'adaptation

Le changement climatique est devenu un facteur déterminant de la transformation spatiale à toutes les échelles. Il affecte les établissements humains, les écosystèmes, la santé publique, les mobilités, la sécurité hydrique et le développement économique. Si l'atténuation demeure essentielle, la période à venir exigera une attention tout aussi soutenue à l'adaptation, à la réduction des risques et au renforcement de la résilience.

La géographie offre des outils uniques pour comprendre où et pourquoi les vulnérabilités se concentrent, comment les aléas interagissent avec les inégalités sociales, et quelles trajectoires d'adaptation sont efficaces selon les contextes locaux. L'UGI devrait ainsi encourager une recherche et une éducation intégrées, qui renforcent la culture du risque climatique, soutiennent la planification fondée sur des données probantes et promeuvent des approches d'adaptation justes, protégeant les communautés les plus vulnérables.

2. Géopolitique des ressources et vulnérabilités spatiales dans un monde en fragmentation

Les années à venir verront probablement s'intensifier les tensions autour des ressources et des flux stratégiques, notamment l'eau, l'alimentation, l'énergie, les minéraux critiques nécessaires à la transition énergétique, ainsi que les réseaux d'infrastructures qui relient les régions et les marchés. Ces enjeux sont intrinsèquement géographiques,

car ils impliquent des répartitions inégales, des interdépendances transfrontalières, des espaces contestés et des priorités territoriales en évolution.

La vision de l'UGI devrait mettre un accent fort sur la géographie de la sécurité des ressources et sur l'analyse spatiale des chaînes d'approvisionnement, des corridors, des ports et des points de passage stratégiques. Elle devrait également encourager une collaboration renforcée entre géographie physique et géographie humaine, afin de mieux comprendre les dynamiques couplées des contraintes environnementales, des décisions politiques et des recompositions économiques.

3. Transformation numérique en géographie : GeoIA, observation de la Terre et gouvernance éthique des données spatiales

La géographie entre dans une nouvelle ère, où les constellations de satellites, les capteurs, les flux de données en temps réel et l'intelligence artificielle géospatiale (GeoIA) transforment la recherche, l'enseignement et l'aide à la décision. Ces évolutions offrent des opportunités majeures pour les systèmes d'alerte précoce, l'évaluation des dommages en contexte de catastrophe, les jumeaux numériques urbains et le suivi amélioré des changements environnementaux.

Parallèlement, l'expansion de l'écosystème des données spatiales soulève des questions fondamentales d'éthique, de respect de la vie privée, de biais algorithmiques, de couverture inégale des données et d'élargissement de l'écart entre les régions riches en données et celles qui en sont pauvres. L'UGI doit promouvoir une innovation responsable, le renforcement des capacités géospatiales de manière ouverte et inclusive, ainsi que des standards éthiques garantissant que les nouvelles technologies servent l'intérêt général et réduisent les inégalités, plutôt que de les accentuer.

Conclusion

Si ces trois thèmes sont affirmés comme des priorités communes, la vision de l'UGI pour 2026–2030 pourra renforcer le rôle de la géographie à la fois comme science de la compréhension spatiale et comme pratique de la responsabilité territoriale. En faisant progresser l'adaptation et la résilience climatiques, en abordant les vulnérabilités géopolitiques liées aux ressources, et en orientant la transformation numérique des savoirs géospatiaux à l'aide de principes éthiques solides, l'UGI contribuera à renforcer la capacité de la géographie à servir la durabilité, l'équité et la paix à l'échelle mondiale.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Candidacy of Professor Fahu CHEN

中国地理学会

Geographical Society of China

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To:

Prof. Nathalie Lemarchand
President of the International Geographical Union (IGU)
Université Paris 8, France
E-mail: nlemarchand02@univ-paris8.fr

March 28, 2026

Dear IGU President Nathalie Lemarchand, Secretary General Barbaros Gönençgil,

Following the consensus of the Geographical Society of China (GSC), I herewith would like to nominate Prof. Fahu Chen to be our Chinese candidate for the coming election of IGU Vice-President.

Prof. Fahu Chen is a renown Chinese physical geographer with long-standing research interests in climate change, environmental archaeology, loess–desert evolution, and paleolimnology, focused on past human-environmental interactions. To date, he has published more than 770 papers in peer-reviewed journals including *Nature*, *Science* and *PNAS*, cited more than 31,300 times by papers of SCI journals with H index of 81 and 13,000 times by papers of Chinese Journals. He has been listed as a global Highly Cited Researcher every year since 2018. In recognition of his distinguished contributions to geography, he has been elected as Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a Member of the World Academy of Sciences, and PI of the Alpine Paleoecology and Human Adaptation Group at the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS. He has been invited on multiple occasions to deliver keynote and invited lectures at leading international conferences, include the 11th International Conference on Geomorphology, as well as prominent forums such as the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly, the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting, and the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) Congress.

As a leading figure in Chinese geography, Prof. Chen is dedicated to serving the academic community. Currently, he serves as Chair of China National Committee for the IGU, Chair of IGU Commission on Silk-Road Civilizations and Environments (since 2024), and previously served as Vice Chair of the IGU Commission on Environment Evolution (2012–2024). He was President (2018–2024) and currently he is Executive President of the Geographical Society of China. He also chaired the INQUA Working Group Rapid Climatic Changes in Central Asia’s Drylands. He served as a Vice President of the China Society on the Tibetan Plateau and of the China Quaternary Research Association. Within the framework of the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO), he initiated the establishment of the Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk-Road Civilization Development (ATES) in 2019.

He has distinguished himself through exceptional scientific achievements, earning more than 10 national and international honors and awards. Among these are the Ho Leung Ho Lee Foundation Science and Technology Progress Award (2023), National Outstanding Professional and Technical Talent (2021). His contributions have also been acknowledged with the Second State Innovation Prize (2020) and two State Natural Science Awards (Second Class) in 2018 and 2007.

Beyond his outstanding scientific achievements, Prof. Chen has demonstrated a sustained commitment to service within the international geographical community. Through his leadership roles in the Geographical Society of China, the International Geographical Union, and multiple international scientific initiatives, he has consistently worked to strengthen global collaboration, promote the visibility of geographical science, and support the development of younger scholars. His efforts have played an important role in fostering dialogue and cooperation between Chinese geographers and the wider international community.

Based on his highlighted contributions to the development of geographical study and international collaboration, we are pleased and proud to nominate Prof. Chen as our candidate for IGU Vice President election and think he is exceptionally qualified for this position. We wish you all the best and thank you for considering our nomination.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Quansheng Ge
President
Geographical Society of China



Prof. Fahu Chen's Curriculum Vitae

Personal details

Name: Fahu Chen

Date of birth: 4th December, 1962

Place of birth: Shaanxi, China

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Short Curriculum Vitae

Fahu Chen is an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS, elected in 2015), a Member of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS, elected in 2016). He has been a professor of physical geography since 1994, with long-standing research interests in climate change, environmental archaeology, loess–desert evolution, and paleolimnology. His major honors and awards include the national recognition of Outstanding Professional and Technical Talents (2021), and the State Natural Science Award (Second Class) in both 2018 and 2007.

He serves as Chair of China National Committee for the International Geographical Union (IGU), Chair of the IGU Commission on Silk-Road Civilizations and Environments (since 2024), and previously served as Vice Chair of the IGU Commission on Environment Evolution (2012–2024). He was President (2019–2024) and currently is Executive President (2024-) of the Geographical Society of China. He also chaired the INQUA Working Group Rapid Climatic Changes in Central Asia's Drylands (RACHAD, 1999–2007). He served as Vice President of the China Society on the Tibetan Plateau and of the China Quaternary Research Association (1995-2025). Within the framework of ANSO, he initiated the establishment of the ANSO Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk-Road Civilization Development (ATES) in 2019 and has since then served as co-chair with Prof. Michael Meadows and Prof. Jurg Luterbacher.

Education

Ph.D. in Physical Geography focused on Quaternary Environment Research, Lanzhou University (Lanzhou), 1990

M.Sc. in Physical Geography, Lanzhou University (Lanzhou), 1987

B.Sc. in Physical Geography, Lanzhou University (Lanzhou), 1984

Employment

2017-present: Research Professor, PI of Alpine Paleocology and Human Adaptation Group (ALPHA), Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS

1995-1997: Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Geography, University of Liverpool

1994-2017: Professor, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lanzhou University

1992-1994: Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Lanzhou University

1990-1994: Lecturer, Department of Geography, Lanzhou University

Research Profile

My scientific work focuses on Quaternary environmental change, climate variability, environmental archaeology, loess–desert evolution, and paleolimnology, with particular emphasis on paleoclimate and paleoenvironmental reconstruction and past human–environment interactions across arid Central Asia and the Tibetan Plateau. My major scientific contributions can be summarized in three aspects: 1) Proposed the “westerlies-dominated climatic regime”, demonstrating that precipitation and moisture variations in arid Central Asia and mid-latitude monsoonal Asia exhibit persistent out-of-phase or anti-phased relationships across multiple Holocene timescales. 2) Established a loess–paleosol and climate-record framework for the western Chinese Loess Plateau, revealing multiple major Holocene droughts along the monsoon margins; quantitatively reconstructed a robust Holocene precipitation history for northern China and proposed a new perspective on peak mid-Holocene summer-monsoon rainfall. 3) Revealed early high-altitude human adaptation, demonstrating that Xihe Denisovans with hypoxia-tolerant physiological traits inhabited the northeastern Tibetan Plateau during the Middle to Late Pleistocene, and advanced the view that trans-continental cultural exchange and agricultural innovation facilitated large-scale prehistoric human settlement on the Plateau. I have published more than 770 papers in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Nature*, *Science*, *Nature Climate Change*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Sustainability*, *Science Bulletin*, *PNAS*, etc., which are cited more than 31,300 times by papers of SCI journals with H index of 81 and more than 13,000 times by papers in Chinese Journals. Listed as a Highly Cited Researcher globally every year since 2018.

Honors

2023, Ho Liang Ho Li Foundation Science and Technology Progress Award

2021, National Outstanding Professional and Technical Talents

2020, The Second State Innovation Prize

2016, Member, The World Academy of Science (TWAS)

2015, Academician, Chinese Academy of Science (CAS)

2007 and 2018, The State Natural Science Award (Second class prize)

2005, National Distinguished Young Scholars

Selected publications (* Corresponding author)

- Xia, H., Zhang, D.J., Wang, J., Fagernäs, Z., Li, T., Li, Y.X., Yao, J.T., Lin, D.P., Troché, G., Smith, G. M., Chen, X.S., Cheng, T., Shen, X.K., Han, Y.Y., Olsen, J. V., Shen, Z.W., Pei, Z.Q., Hublin, J.-J., **Chen, F.H.***, Welker, F., 2024. Middle and Late Pleistocene Denisovan subsistence at Baishiya Karst Cave. *Nature*, 632, 108–113.
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Prof. Fahu Chen's Statement of Intent

Beijing, March 28, 2026

Dear colleagues,

Climate and environment change has become one of the defining challenges of the 21st century. Rising temperatures, intensifying hydroclimatic extremes, and accelerating ecosystem degradation are reshaping the prospects for sustainable development worldwide. More than half of the world's population lives in these environmentally sensitive regions, such as arid Central Asia, the Asian monsoon margins, and the high-altitude Tibetan Plateau. These regions function as natural laboratories for understanding human resilience and early adaptation. At the same time, rapid environmental change presents profound challenges for governance, ecological security, and the long-term continuity of human civilization. Geographers play a vital role in addressing global challenges by examining the complex relationships between humans and the environment. Through the study of geography, scholars gain insight into the long history of human–environment interactions, from the development of agriculture to modern patterns of ecological dependence.

The International Geographical Union (IGU) represents a global community of geography scholars and practitioners. By bringing together expertise from diverse countries and regions, the IGU provides a vital platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and debate on Earth system dynamics and human adaptation. Strengthening the visibility and influence of the IGU in global academic and public discussions is therefore of great importance.

I hope that I will have the honor to be nominated as IGU Vice President for the next four years. I am prepared to expand my contributions and place my experience in service of the organization. If elected, I would commit to three primary goals:

- 1) Increasing the participation of geographers from developing countries—particularly those along the Silk Road regions and across the Global South—as well as supporting young and early-career scholars.
- 2) Strengthening the role of geography in advancing earth system science focused on Anthropocene through enhanced education, cooperation, public outreach, and practical applications.
- 3) Promoting joint initiatives among IGU Commissions that bridge the natural and social sciences, foster deeper multidisciplinary integration, and encourage broad and sustained international cooperation.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration and extend my best wishes to the IGU community.

Yours sincerely,



Fahu Chen

Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Email: fhchen@itpcas.ac.cn

Candidacy of Senior Researcher Monica Ștefania DUMITRAȘCU



**ROMANIAN ACADEMY
NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF GEOGRAPHY**

To: Professor Nathalie Lemarchand University Paris 8
The President of the International Geographical Union
E-Mail: nlemarchand02@univ-paris8.fr , nlemarchan@aol.com

Recommendation Letter
for the election of Dr. Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu
as Vice-President of the International Geographical Union

I, Prof. Dan Bălțeanu, President of the Romanian National Committee of Geography, hereby strongly recommend Dr. Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu for the position of Vice-President of the International Geographical Union (IGU).

Dr. Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu is a Senior Researcher and Deputy Director with the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy and Director of the Doctoral School of Geonomic Sciences. She is a highly respected scholar whose scientific activity is recognized both nationally and internationally. As a recognition of her scientific and organizational achievements, she has been recently elected Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy (2025).

Her consistent involvement in the IGU, combined with her contributions to the development of international scientific cooperation, has played a role in strengthening the visibility of Romanian geography within the global community. Since 2020, she has served as Chair of the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change, where she has exhibited strong leadership and organizational capacity. Through her work within the IGU, Dr. Dumitrașcu has contributed to the expansion and diversification of the geographical community.

At the same time, Dr. Dumitrașcu has had a sustained and significant contribution to the development of the geographical community in Romania, as a Scientific Secretary of the Romanian National Committee of Geography since 2012.

She has also been serving for nearly a decade as First Vice-President of the Romanian Geographical Society, where she has been involved in many major scientific and educational activities. In this capacity, she helped organize the Society's 150-year anniversary session in 2025, a landmark event for the Romanian geographical community.

Her scientific expertise covers key areas of contemporary geography, including land use change, climate change impacts, socio-economic vulnerability, and the geographical study of protected areas. Her interdisciplinary approach and her ability to integrate geographical research with broader environmental and societal challenges are relevant in the current context of global environmental change.

Dr. Dumitrașcu has an outstanding scientific record, including numerous publications in prestigious international journals and participation in national and international research projects.

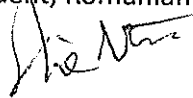
In addition to her scientific achievements, she has displayed a significant interest for the education and advancement of young researchers. Her involvement in doctoral training and international academic collaboration further highlights her capacity to contribute to the future development of the geographical community.

Considering her scientific achievements, her leadership within the IGU, and her sustained contribution to both national and international geographical communities, The Romanian National Committee of Geography firmly supports the candidacy of Dr. Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu for the position of Vice-President of the International Geographical Union.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dan Bălțeanu

President, Romanian National Committee of Geography





**ACADÉMIE ROUMAINE
COMITÉ NATIONAL DE GÉOGRAPHIE**

À l'attention de : Professeure Nathalie Lemarchand, Université Paris 8
Présidente de l'Union Géographique Internationale
E-mail : nlemarchand02@univ-paris8.fr, nlemarchan@aol.com

Lettre de recommandation

pour l'élection de Mme Dr Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu
au poste de Vice-Présidente de l'Union Géographique Internationale

Je soussigné, Prof. Dan Bălțeanu, Président du Comité National Roumain de Géographie, recommande vivement Mme Dr Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu pour le poste de Vice-Présidente de l'Union Géographique Internationale (UGI).

Mme Dr Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu est chercheuse principale et directrice adjointe à l'Institut de Géographie de l'Académie roumaine, ainsi que directrice de l'École doctorale des sciences géonomiques. Elle est une chercheuse respectée, dont l'activité scientifique est reconnue tant au niveau national qu'international. En reconnaissance de ses réalisations scientifiques et organisationnelles, elle a récemment été élue membre correspondante de l'Académie roumaine (2025).

Son implication constante au sein de l'UGI, ainsi que ses contributions au développement de la coopération scientifique internationale, ont contribué à renforcer la visibilité de la géographie roumaine au sein de la communauté mondiale. Depuis 2020, elle est présidente de la Commission de l'UGI sur les changements d'utilisation et de couverture des sols, où elle a démontré de solides compétences en matière de leadership et d'organisation. Par son activité au sein de l'UGI, Mme Dr Dumitrașcu a contribué à l'expansion et à la diversification de la communauté géographique.

Par ailleurs, Mme Dr Dumitrașcu a apporté une contribution soutenue et significative au développement de la communauté géographique en Roumanie, en tant que secrétaire scientifique du Comité national roumain de géographie depuis 2012.

Elle exerce également depuis près d'une décennie les fonctions de première vice-présidente de la Société de Géographie de Roumanie, où elle a participé à de nombreuses activités scientifiques et éducatives majeures. À ce titre, elle a contribué à l'organisation de la session anniversaire des 150 ans de la Société en 2025, un événement marquant pour la communauté géographique roumaine.

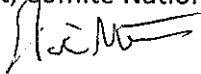
Son expertise scientifique couvre des domaines clés de la géographie contemporaine, notamment les changements d'utilisation des terres, les impacts du changement climatique, la vulnérabilité socio-économique et l'étude géographique des aires protégées. Son approche interdisciplinaire et sa capacité à intégrer la recherche géographique aux enjeux environnementaux et sociétaux actuels sont particulièrement pertinentes dans le contexte des changements environnementaux globaux.

Mme Dr Dumitrașcu possède un parcours scientifique remarquable, comprenant de nombreuses publications dans des revues internationales prestigieuses ainsi que la participation à des projets de recherche nationaux et internationaux.

Outre ses réalisations scientifiques, elle manifeste un intérêt marqué pour la formation et le développement des jeunes chercheurs. Son implication dans la formation doctorale et la collaboration académique internationale souligne également sa capacité à contribuer au développement futur de la communauté géographique.

Compte tenu de ses réalisations scientifiques, de son rôle de leader au sein de l'UGI et de sa contribution soutenue aux communautés géographiques nationale et internationale, le Comité national roumain de géographie soutient la candidature de Mme Dr Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu au poste de Vice-Présidente de l'Union Géographique Internationale.

Cordialement,
Prof. Dan Bălțeanu
Président, Comité National Roumain de Géographie



CURRICULUM VITAE AND PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Monica Ștefania DUMITRAȘCU

Date of birth: 17 April 1974

Place of birth: Romania

Work address: Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy
12, D. Racoviță str., Bucharest, Romania

E-mail : stefania_dumitrascu@yahoo.com; phone : +40 721 243 489

Professional Profile

Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu is a Senior Researcher with the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, where she also serves as Deputy Director. She has been affiliated with the Institute since 1997, advancing through all academic and research ranks, from Junior Researcher to Senior Scientific Researcher, including leadership positions (head of the Physical Geography Department 2006-2010, and Deputy Director since 2010). Since 2023, she has been Director of the Doctoral School of Geonomic Sciences (within the Advanced Studies School of the Romanian Academy - SCOSAAR), coordinating doctoral programmes in both Geography and Geology.

Her academic and institutional activity reflects a sustained commitment to advancing geographical research and fostering international scientific collaboration. As recognition of her scientific and organizational achievements, she was elected Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy in 2025.

Education

- **Habilitation in Geography**, 2017 – SCOSAAR, Romanian Academy
Thesis: Geographical study of the effects of global environmental changes at local and regional levels
- **PhD in Geography**, 1998-2005 – Joint supervision between the University of Bucharest (Romania) and Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille I (France)
Thesis: Current landscape changes in the Oltenia Plain
- **Postgraduate Studies (Advanced Studies Programme)**, 1997-1998 – University of Bucharest
Sustainable landscape management through territorial planning and spatial organization
- **BSc in Geography**, 1992-1997 – University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography
Specialization: Environmental Research

Research and Scientific Contributions

Her research focuses on key areas of environmental geography, including land use and land cover change, socio-economic vulnerability, climate change impacts, and protected areas. Her work is characterized by a strong interdisciplinary perspective, addressing complex interactions between environmental processes and societal dynamics across multiple spatial scales.

She has contributed to the development of methodological frameworks for analysing land use changes, assessing socio-economic vulnerability, and integrating spatial modelling and GIS-based approaches in environmental research. Her studies have addressed issues such as agricultural productivity under climate variability, land degradation, and the dynamics of protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

Her scientific output includes 15 books (as either author or editor), over 50 book chapters, and 165 scientific articles, 68 of which are indexed in Web of Science. Her publications have appeared in leading international journals, such as *Nature Communications*, *Environmental Research*, *Land Use Policy*, *Ecological Indicators*, *CATENA*, and *GeoHealth*. Her Web of Science H-index is 20, with over 1,400 citations. She has also presented over 200 papers at national and international scientific events.

International Activity and Leadership within IGU

Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu has been actively involved in the International Geographical Union (IGU) since 2008, participating continuously in IGU Congresses, regional conferences, thematic conferences, and commission activities. She has attended all major IGU Congresses since 2008 (Tunis, Cologne, Beijing, Istanbul, Paris, Dublin), demonstrating long-term commitment to the international geographical community.

Her involvement within IGU has progressively evolved into leadership roles. She served as a member of the Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change (2016–2020) and has been a member of the Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity (2016-2014). Since 2020, she has served as Chair of the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change, being re-elected in 2024.

In this role, she has coordinated numerous international scientific activities and contributed to strengthening the collaboration within the IGU network. She has organized and coordinated scientific sessions at IGU Congresses (Istanbul 2021, Paris 2022, Dublin 2024) and has been involved in the development of IGU thematic conferences worldwide.

A defining dimension of her recent activity has been promoting geographical research and collaboration in the Global South. She has contributed to the expansion of IGU activities and the strengthening of scientific networks in Africa (South Africa, Egypt, Uganda), Latin America (Ecuador, Peru, Colombia), and Asia (India, China), by organizing conferences, workshops, and scientific sessions. These efforts have contributed to increasing inclusiveness and strengthening global representation within IGU.

She was the principal organizer of the first IGU Thematic Conference held in Romania (Bucharest–Tulcea, 2017), which brought together participants from over 20 countries, and co-organizer of a major IGU conference in Bucharest in 2023. Her contribution to the IGU has been recognized by being invited as a keynote speaker at the IGU Centennial Congress in Paris (2022). In 2024, the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change, under her coordination, received the IGU Annual Excellence Award in recognition of its outstanding activity.

National Leadership and Institutional Engagement

Alongside her international activity, Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu has played a significant role in the development of the geographical community in Romania.

Starting 2012, she has served as Scientific Secretary of the Romanian National Committee of Geography, contributing actively to the organization, coordination, and development of its scientific and institutional activities, and ensuring its continuity and visibility at both national and international levels.

She has also been serving for nearly a decade as First Vice-President of the Romanian Geographical Society. In this capacity, she has been actively involved in all major scientific and educational

activities, including the organization of the anniversary session marking, in 2025, the Society's 150th anniversary, a landmark event for the Romanian geographical community.

Her national engagement also includes participation in various scientific committees and advisory bodies in areas such as climate change, territorial planning, biodiversity, and environmental policies.

Research Projects and International Collaboration

She has participated in over 50 research projects, including 16 in leadership roles (coordinator, principal investigator, or country team leader). These projects have been funded through major European and international programmes, such as FP6 (CLAVIER), FP7 (EnviroGRIDS, ECLISE), Horizon Europe (SPOT, EuropeLAND), SEE (CC-Waters), EraNet (PIMEO-AI), and cross-border cooperation initiatives, as well as by organizations such as UNEP and the World Bank. At the national level, several projects of strategic importance stand out, such as the National Risk Assessment (Ro-Risk) and climate change adaptation (Ro-Adapt), carried out in close collaboration with stakeholders at the local, regional, or national level.

Her work has contributed to building strong international partnerships with universities and research institutes, leading to joint publications and sustained scientific collaboration.

Teaching, Supervision, and Academic Development

Since 2011, she has been involved in teaching activities at several Romanian universities, including the University of Craiova, the University of Bucharest, and the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, where she has taught courses at Master's level on landscape analysis, environmental management, and natural hazards.

In 2024, she was a Visiting Professor at University of Paris 8, contributing to the Master's programme "Risks and Environment".

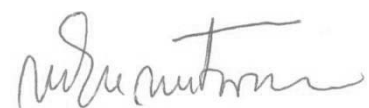
Moreover, in recognition of her professional prestige, she was invited as an official reviewer for numerous doctoral or habilitation theses defended at the University of Bucharest, the University of Craiova, Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Al. I. Cuza University in Iași, and the West University of Timișoara.

She has been a PhD supervisor since 2018 and is currently overseeing six doctoral students, two of whom have successfully completed their doctoral studies. As Director of the Doctoral School of Geonomic Sciences, she also teaches courses on academic ethics and research project management.

Vision and Contribution to the Geographical Community

Throughout her career, Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting international cooperation, scientific excellence, and interdisciplinary dialogue. Her work reflects a clear understanding of the role of geography in addressing global challenges, including environmental change, socio-economic disparities, and geopolitical dynamics.

Her profile reflects a balanced combination of scientific excellence, institutional leadership, and international engagement, positioning her as a strong contributor to the future development of the global geographical community.



CURRICULUM VITAE ET PROFIL PROFESSIONNEL

Monica Ștefania DUMITRAȘCU

Date de naissance : 17 avril 1974

Lieu de naissance : Roumanie

Nationalité : roumaine

Adresse professionnelle : Institut de Géographie, Académie Roumaine

12, rue D. Racoviță, Bucarest, Roumanie

E-mail : stefania_dumitrascu@yahoo.com ; téléphone : +40 721 243 489

Profil professionnel

Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu est chercheuse principale à l'Institut de Géographie de l'Académie roumaine, où elle occupe également la fonction de directrice adjointe. Elle est affiliée à l'Institut depuis 1997, ayant progressé à travers tous les échelons académiques et de recherche, de chercheuse junior à chercheuse scientifique principale, y compris des fonctions de direction (cheffe du département de géographie physique entre 2006 et 2010, et directrice adjointe depuis 2010). Depuis 2023, elle est directrice de l'École doctorale des sciences géonomiques (au sein de l'École des hautes études de l'Académie roumaine – SCOSAAR), coordonnant les programmes doctoraux en géographie et en géologie.

Son activité académique et institutionnelle reflète un engagement constant en faveur du développement de la recherche géographique et de la collaboration scientifique internationale. En reconnaissance de ses réalisations scientifiques et organisationnelles, elle a été élue membre correspondante de l'Académie roumaine en 2025.

Formation

- **Habilitation à diriger des recherches en géographie**, 2017 – SCOSAAR, Académie roumaine
Thèse : Étude géographique des effets des changements environnementaux globaux aux échelles locale et régionale
- **Doctorat en géographie**, 1998–2005 – Cotutelle entre l'Université de Bucarest (Roumanie) et l'Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille I (France)
Thèse : Changements actuels des paysages dans la plaine d'Olténie
- **Études postuniversitaires** (programme d'études approfondies), 1997–1998 – Université de Bucarest
Gestion durable des paysages par l'aménagement du territoire et l'organisation spatiale
- **Licence en géographie**, 1992–1997 – Université de Bucarest, Faculté de Géographie
Spécialisation : Recherche environnementale

Recherche et contributions scientifiques

Ses recherches portent sur des domaines clés de la géographie de l'environnement, notamment les changements d'utilisation et de couverture des terres, la vulnérabilité socio-économique, les impacts du changement climatique et les aires protégées. Ses travaux se caractérisent par une approche interdisciplinaire forte, abordant les interactions complexes entre les processus environnementaux et les dynamiques sociétales à différentes échelles spatiales.

Elle a contribué au développement de cadres méthodologiques pour l'analyse des changements d'utilisation des terres, l'évaluation de la vulnérabilité socio-économique et l'intégration de la modélisation spatiale et des approches basées sur les SIG dans la recherche environnementale. Ses

études ont abordé des problématiques telles que la productivité agricole sous variabilité climatique, la dégradation des terres, ainsi que la dynamique des aires protégées et la conservation de la biodiversité.

Sa production scientifique comprend 15 ouvrages (en tant qu'auteure ou éditrice), plus de 50 chapitres d'ouvrages et 165 articles scientifiques, dont 68 indexés dans Web of Science. Ses publications ont été diffusées dans des revues internationales de premier plan telles que *Nature Communications*, *Environmental Research*, *Land Use Policy*, *Ecological Indicators*, *CATENA* et *GeoHealth*. Son indice H (Web of Science) est de 20, avec plus de 1 400 citations. Elle a également présenté plus de 200 communications lors de manifestations scientifiques nationales et internationales.

Activité internationale et responsabilités au sein de l'UGI

Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu est activement impliquée dans l'Union Géographique Internationale (UGI) depuis 2008, participant de manière continue aux congrès de l'UGI, aux conférences régionales, aux conférences thématiques et aux activités des commissions. Elle a pris part à tous les grands congrès de l'UGI depuis 2008 (Tunis, Cologne, Pékin, Istanbul, Paris, Dublin), témoignant d'un engagement durable envers la communauté géographique internationale.

Son implication au sein de l'UGI a progressivement évolué vers des fonctions de leadership. Elle a été membre du comité directeur de la Commission UGI sur les changements d'utilisation et de couverture des terres (2016–2020) et membre du comité directeur de la Commission UGI sur la biogéographie et la biodiversité (2014–2016). Depuis 2020, elle est présidente de la Commission UGI sur les changements d'utilisation et de couverture des terres, fonction pour laquelle elle a été réélue en 2024. Dans ce rôle, elle a coordonné de nombreuses activités scientifiques internationales et contribué au renforcement de la collaboration au sein du réseau UGI. Elle a organisé et coordonné des sessions scientifiques lors des congrès de l'UGI (Istanbul 2021, Paris 2022, Dublin 2024) et a participé au développement de conférences thématiques de l'UGI à l'échelle mondiale.

Une dimension essentielle de son activité récente est la promotion de la recherche géographique et de la coopération dans le Sud global. Elle a contribué à l'expansion des activités de l'UGI et au renforcement des réseaux scientifiques en Afrique (Afrique du Sud, Égypte, Ouganda), en Amérique latine (Équateur, Pérou, Colombie) et en Asie (Inde, Chine), en organisant des conférences, des ateliers et des sessions scientifiques. Ces efforts ont contribué à renforcer l'inclusivité et la représentation mondiale au sein de l'UGI.

Elle a été la principale organisatrice de la première conférence thématique de l'UGI tenue en Roumanie (Bucarest–Tulcea, 2017), qui a réuni des participants de plus de 20 pays, et co-organisatrice d'une grande conférence de l'UGI à Bucarest en 2023. Sa contribution à l'UGI a été reconnue par son invitation en tant que conférencière principale au Congrès du centenaire de l'UGI à Paris (2022). En 2024, la Commission UGI sur les changements d'utilisation et de couverture des terres, sous sa coordination, a reçu le Prix annuel d'excellence de l'UGI en reconnaissance de son activité exceptionnelle.

Leadership national et engagement institutionnel

Parallèlement à son activité internationale, Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu a joué un rôle important dans le développement de la communauté géographique en Roumanie.

Depuis 2012, elle est secrétaire scientifique du Comité national de géographie de Roumanie, contribuant activement à l'organisation, à la coordination et au développement de ses activités scientifiques et institutionnelles, ainsi qu'à sa visibilité aux niveaux national et international.

Elle occupe également depuis près d'une décennie la fonction de première vice-présidente de la Société de Géographie de Roumanie. À ce titre, elle a été impliquée dans toutes les grandes

activités scientifiques et éducatives, y compris l'organisation de la session anniversaire marquant les 150 ans de la fondation de la Société en 2025, un événement majeur pour la communauté géographique roumaine.

Son engagement national comprend également la participation à divers comités scientifiques et instances consultatives dans des domaines tels que le changement climatique, l'aménagement du territoire, la biodiversité et les politiques environnementales.

Projets de recherche et collaboration internationale

Elle a participé à plus de 50 projets de recherche, dont 16 en tant que responsable (coordinatrice, chercheuse principale ou cheffe d'équipe nationale). Ces projets ont été financés par d'importants programmes européens et internationaux tels que FP6 (CLAVIER), FP7 (EnviroGRIDS, ECLISE), Horizon Europe (SPOT, EuropeLAND), SEE (CC-Waters), EraNet (PIMEO-AI), ainsi que par des initiatives de coopération transfrontalière, et des organisations comme le PNUE et la Banque mondiale. Au niveau national, plusieurs projets d'importance stratégique se distinguent, tels que l'évaluation nationale des risques (Ro-Risk) et l'adaptation au changement climatique (Ro-Adapt), réalisés en étroite collaboration avec des acteurs locaux, régionaux et nationaux.

Ses travaux ont contribué à la consolidation de partenariats internationaux solides avec des universités et des instituts de recherche, favorisant des publications communes et une collaboration scientifique durable.

Enseignement, encadrement et développement académique

Depuis 2011, elle est impliquée dans des activités d'enseignement dans plusieurs universités roumaines, notamment l'Université de Craiova, l'Université de Bucarest et l'Université des Sciences Agronomiques et de Médecine Vétérinaire de Bucarest, où elle dispense des cours de master sur l'analyse des paysages, la gestion de l'environnement et les risques naturels.

En 2024, elle a été professeure invitée à l'Université Paris 8, contribuant au programme de master « Risques et Environnement ».

En reconnaissance de son prestige professionnel, elle a également été invitée en tant que rapporteure officielle pour de nombreuses thèses de doctorat ou d'habilitation soutenues à l'Université de Bucarest, à l'Université de Craiova, à l'Université Babeş-Bolyai de Cluj-Napoca, à l'Université « Al. I. Cuza » de Iași et à l'Université de l'Ouest de Timișoara.

Elle est directrice de thèse depuis 2018 et encadre actuellement six doctorants, dont deux ont déjà soutenu avec succès leur doctorat. En tant que directrice de l'École doctorale des sciences géonomiques, elle dispense également des cours d'éthique académique et de gestion de projets de recherche.

Vision et contribution à la communauté géographique

Tout au long de sa carrière, Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu a démontré un engagement fort en faveur de la coopération internationale, de l'excellence scientifique et du dialogue interdisciplinaire. Ses travaux témoignent d'une compréhension claire du rôle de la géographie dans la réponse aux défis mondiaux, notamment les changements environnementaux, les disparités socio-économiques et les dynamiques géopolitiques.

Son profil reflète une combinaison équilibrée d'excellence scientifique, de leadership institutionnel et d'engagement international, la positionnant comme une contributrice importante au développement futur de la communauté géographique mondiale.

Bucarest, le 31 mars 2026

Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu



Statement of Intent

Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu



Dear Chairs of the IGU National Committee,

It is with great honour to serve the International Geographical Union from the position of Vice-President.

I have been actively involved in the IGU for more than fifteen years, and since 2020, I have had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Land Use and Land Cover Change Commission, gaining a strong understanding of the Union's structure, its scientific networks, and evolving strategic priorities.

Through the activities of the commission I coordinate, I have contributed to expanding and diversifying the IGU community, particularly by promoting the involvement of geographers from the Global South. Building on this experience, I aim to strengthen the integration of underrepresented regions by supporting inclusive scientific networks, enhancing collaboration, and fostering sustained participation in IGU's activities.

My scientific activity has also been connected to national and international research programmes. I have been involved in over 50 research projects, including several funded through European and international frameworks, serving as coordinator, principal investigator, or country team leader, thereby developing institutional partnerships.

I have also maintained strong and continuous engagement with the national geographical community. As Scientific Secretary of the Romanian National Committee since 2012, I have contributed to the development of its activities. At the same time, as First Vice-President of the Romanian Geographical Society, I have been involved in major scientific and educational initiatives, including its 150th anniversary in 2025. These roles have strengthened my understanding of the priorities of national geographical communities.

If elected Vice-President, I will fully support the implementation of the strategic vision and management plan proposed by IGU President Nathalie Lemarchand, which I consider essential for guiding the Union's future development. I would also strengthen interdisciplinary research,

particularly addressing the complex challenges of global environmental changes in the Anthropocene.

It is my view that geography plays a crucial role in understanding current geopolitical dynamics and social disparities across different spatial scales. Thus, I would champion a closer dialogue between geographical research and policy.

Furthermore, I believe that the integration of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, offers significant opportunities for advancing geographical research and enhancing data analysis, modelling, and decision-making.

A key priority for me is supporting early-career researchers and educational initiatives, such as the International Geography Olympiad, which inspires new generations. Romania has been actively involved in this competition for many years, achieving strong results.

Throughout my academic and institutional career, I have fostered international collaboration, scientific excellence, and dialogue across disciplines and regions, as reflected in my activity within IGU, the coordination of scientific sessions at IGU Congresses, the organization of international events and collaborative initiatives across Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

I believe that my experience within IGU and my commitment to its values and future directions would allow me to contribute effectively to its leadership.

I would be deeply honoured to serve the IGU in this capacity and to support its continued development as a truly global, inclusive, and forward-looking scientific community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Monica Dumitrașcu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monica Dumitrașcu', written in a cursive style.

French version

Chers Présidents des Comités nationaux de l'UGI,

C'est avec un grand honneur de servir l'Union Géographique Internationale au poste de Vice-Présidente.

Je suis activement impliquée au sein de l'UGI depuis plus de quinze ans et, depuis 2020, j'ai eu le privilège d'exercer la fonction de responsable de la commission « Land Use and Land Cover Change », ce qui m'a permis d'acquérir une solide compréhension de la structure de l'Union, de ses réseaux scientifiques et de ses priorités stratégiques en évolution.

À travers les activités de la commission que je coordonne, j'ai contribué à élargir et à diversifier la communauté de l'UGI, notamment en favorisant l'implication des géographes du Sud global. Forte de cette expérience, je souhaite renforcer l'intégration des régions sous-représentées en soutenant des réseaux scientifiques inclusifs, en développant la collaboration et en encourageant une participation durable aux activités de l'UGI.

Mon activité scientifique est également étroitement liée à des programmes de recherche nationaux et internationaux. J'ai participé à plus de 50 projets de recherche, dont plusieurs financés dans le cadre de programmes européens et internationaux, en tant que coordinatrice, chercheuse principale ou responsable d'équipe nationale, contribuant ainsi au développement de partenariats institutionnels.

J'ai également maintenu un engagement fort et constant auprès de la communauté géographique nationale. En tant que Secrétaire scientifique du Comité national roumain depuis 2012, j'ai contribué au développement de ses activités. Parallèlement, en tant que Première Vice-Présidente de la Société de Géographie de Roumanie, j'ai participé à des initiatives scientifiques et éducatives majeures, notamment à l'occasion du 150^e anniversaire de la Société en 2025. Ces responsabilités ont renforcé ma compréhension des priorités des communautés géographiques nationales.

Si je suis élue Vice-Présidente, je soutiendrai pleinement la mise en œuvre de la vision stratégique et du plan de gestion proposés par la Présidente de l'UGI, Nathalie Lemarchand, que je considère essentiels pour orienter le développement futur de l'Union. Je m'attacherai également à renforcer la recherche interdisciplinaire, en particulier sur les défis complexes liés aux changements environnementaux globaux dans l'Anthropocène.

Je considère que la géographie joue un rôle crucial dans la compréhension des dynamiques géopolitiques actuelles et des inégalités sociales à différentes échelles spatiales ; je favoriserai ainsi un dialogue plus étroit entre la recherche géographique et les politiques publiques.

Par ailleurs, je suis convaincue que l'intégration des technologies émergentes, y compris l'intelligence artificielle, offre des opportunités significatives pour faire progresser la recherche géographique et améliorer l'analyse des données, la modélisation et la prise de décision.

Une priorité essentielle pour moi est également le soutien aux jeunes chercheurs ainsi qu'aux initiatives éducatives telles que l'Olympiade Internationale de Géographie, qui inspire les nouvelles générations. La Roumanie participe activement à cette compétition depuis de nombreuses années, avec des résultats remarquables.

Tout au long de ma carrière académique et institutionnelle, j'ai encouragé la collaboration internationale, l'excellence scientifique et le dialogue entre disciplines et régions, comme en témoigne mon activité au sein de l'UGI, la coordination de sessions scientifiques lors des congrès de l'UGI, ainsi que l'organisation d'événements internationaux et d'initiatives collaboratives en Europe, en Asie, en Afrique et en Amérique latine.


Je suis convaincue que mon expérience au sein de l'UGI, ainsi que mon engagement envers ses valeurs et ses orientations futures, me permettront de contribuer efficacement à sa gouvernance.

Je serais profondément honorée de servir l'UGI dans cette fonction et de soutenir son développement continu en tant que communauté scientifique véritablement mondiale, inclusive et tournée vers l'avenir.

Je vous remercie de l'attention portée à ma candidature.

Je vous prie d'agréer, chers Présidents, l'expression de mes salutations distinguées.

Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monica Dumitrașcu', written in a cursive style.

Candidacy of Professor Phil MCMANUS

Expéditeur : "ISC@AAS" <ISC@science.org.au>

À : "nlemarchan" <nlemarchan@aol.com> "Nathalie Lemarchand" <nlemarchand02@univ-paris8.fr>

Dear Professor Nathalie Lemarchand,

On behalf of the Australian Academy of Science National Committee for Geographical Sciences, we would like to re-nominate Professor Philip Mcmanus for his executive position as the vice-president.

Please see the attached documents as per the guidelines that are required for his nomination.

For any further documents or information needed please do not hesitate to reach out.

My kind regards,

Swasti

--

Swastika Devi (she/her) International Science Networks Adviser
International Programs [Mon - Fri]

Australian Academy of Science
Ngunnawal Country, Ian Potter House, 9 Gordon Street, Acton ACT 2601
GPO Box 783, Canberra ACT 2601
(02) 6201 9454 (auto-forwards to mobile) | swastika.devi@science.org.au | science.org.au

CURRICULUM VITAE (SUMMARISED): PROFESSOR PHIL McMANUS

D.O.B. 2nd March, 1966

NATIONALITY Australian

EMPLOYMENT RECORD (MOST RECENT)

| | |
|---------|--|
| Current | School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head of School of Geosciences, 1 February, 2015- 30 June, 2019• Level B (1999-2002); Level C (2003-2008), Level D (2009-2014), Level E (Professor, 2015 onwards) |
| 1997-9 | Department of Geography and Environmental Science, U. of Newcastle, Australia Lecturer, Level B |
| 1994-6 | Department of Geography, University of Bristol, Teaching Assistant |

EDUCATION

| | |
|------|--|
| 1996 | PHD IN GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL, ENGLAND. |
| 1990 | MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, YORK UNIVERSITY, CANADA. |
| 1987 | GRAD. DIP (URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING), CURTIN UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA. |
| 1986 | BA (URBAN & REGIONAL STUDIES), CURTIN UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA. |

MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS

| | |
|------|--|
| 2023 | <i>Urban Rewilding: Ecologically and Community-informed Futures</i> , Newsome T, McManus P, Grueber C, et al., Australian Research Council (ARC)/Linkage Projects (LP), \$488,277.00 |
| 2017 | Environmental Assessments of Mining Projects in New South Wales: A cross-disciplinary policy opportunity for improving health and wellbeing; Harris P, McManus P, Ji M, Dawson A, Colagiuri R; DVC Research/Sydney Policy Lab. |
| 2016 | Research Partnership on Climate Adaptive and Water Management Plans for Cities in South Asia (CAMPS); McManus P; International Development Research Centre (Canada)/Research Support. |
| 2013 | ARC DP13 (\$499 428) for Caring for Thoroughbreds, with Davison (Utas); McGreevy (Sydney) and Roberts (Kentucky) |
| 2011 | Understanding the Carbon and Pollution Mitigation Potential of Australia's Urban Forest (\$139 000) with Amati (Macquarie), Ghosh (UTS) Shrestha (Sydney) |
| 2006 | ARC Discovery Grant - Constructing Nature, Tradition and Thoroughbreds (\$240 000 over 3 years) with Albrecht (Murdoch U.) |
| 2006 | ARC Discovery Grant – Rural Heartlands (\$170 000 over 2 years), with 7 other academics from 5 institutions. |

EDITORIAL BOARDS (CURRENT)

Australian Geographer; Sustainability; PLOS Climate

MOST RECENT (2025 AND BEYOND) AND SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

- McManus, P. 2026 forthcoming (July). *Extreme Weather and the Media: Communicating Disasters and Climate Change*. Edward Elgar, Cheltenham.
- Connell, J., McManus, P. & Ding, X. 2024. *Chinese Tourism in Australia: Koalas, Selfies and Red Dresses*. Palgrave MacMillan, London.
- McManus, P., Albrecht, G. & Graham, R. 2013. *The Global Horseracing Industry: Social, economic, environmental and ethical perspectives*. Routledge, Abingdon.
- Connell, J. & McManus, P. 2011 *Rural Revival? Place marketing, tree change and rural migration in Australia*. Ashgate, Farnham, UK.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- McManus, P. (2025). Science and science communication of anthropogenic climate change and extreme weather-related events: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Alpha Road/Tambaroora bushfire in Australia, 2023. *Global Environmental Change* 92, 102996.
- Finnerty, P.B. Carthey, A.J.R., Banks, P.B. et al (2025). Urban rewilding to combat global biodiversity decline. *BioScience*, biaf062 1.
- McManus, P. Silverstein, B., Blatman, N. et al (2025). Indigeneity and infrastructures of settler colonialism. *Geographical Research* 63 (2), 214-220.
- Blatman, N., Taksa, L., Silverstein, B. et. al (2025). Rail relations: Aboriginal storywork and remaking Australia's settler-colonial infrastructure. *Geographical Research* 63 (2),279-290.
- Smith, P. & McManus, P. (2024). Geographies of Coexistence: negotiating urban space with the Grey-Headed Flying-Fox. *Australian Geographer*, 55 (1), 95-114.
- McManus, P. (2023). Living with anthropogenic climate change: Learning from environmental history to question narratives of doom, hope, and crisis. *Geographical Research*, 61 (4), 525-530.
- McManus, P. (2023). Animal-based entertainment industries, animal death and Social Licence to Operate (SLO): An analysis of "The Final Race" and the 2019 Melbourne Cup. *Social and Cultural Geography*, 24 (7), 1242-1261.
- Tenali, S. & McManus, P. (2022). Climate change acknowledgment to promote sustainable development: a critical discourse analysis of local action plans in coastal Florida. *Sustainable Development* 30 (5), 1072-1085.
- McManus, P. (2022). Counterurbanisation, demographic change and discourses of rural revival in Australia during Covid-19. *Australian Geographer* 53 (4), 363-378.
- Connell, J., Ding, X., McManus, P., Gibson, C. (2021). Social media, popular culture and 'soft heritage': Chinese tourists in search of Harry Potter. *Tourist Studies* 21 (4), 572-595.
- McManus, P. (2021) A more-than-urban political ecology of bushfire smoke in eastern Australia, 2019–2020. *Australian Geographer* 52 (3), 243-256
- McManus, P., Pandey, C., Shrestha, K., Ojha, H., Shrestha, S. (2021). Climate change and equitable urban water management: critical urban water zones (CUWZs) in Nepal and beyond. *Local Environment*, 26(4), 431-447.
- McManus, P. & Haughton, G. (2021). Fighting to undo a deal: Identifying and resisting the financialization of the WestConnex motorway, Sydney, Australia. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 53(1), 131-149.
- Haughton, G. & McManus, P. (2019). Participation in Postpolitical Times: Protesting WestConnex in Sydney, Australia. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 85 (3), 321-334

Iping A., Kidston-Lattari, J., Simpson-Young, A., Duncan, E. McManus, P. (2019) (Re) presenting urban heat islands in Australian cities: A study of media reporting and implications for urban heat and climate change debates. *Urban Climate* 27, 420-429

Duncan, E., Graham, R., McManus, P., 2018. 'No one has even seen, smelt, or sensed a social licence': Animal geographies and social licence to operate. *Geoforum*, 96, 318-327.

McManus, P., Walmsley, J., Bourke, L, Argent, N., Baum, S., Martin, J., Pritchard, B. & Sorensen, A. 2012, Rural Community and Rural Resilience: What is important to farmers in keeping their country towns alive? *Journal of Rural Studies*. 28(1), 20-29

Haughton, G. & McManus, P. 2012, "Neoliberal experiments with urban infrastructure: The Cross City Tunnel, Sydney, *Journal of International Urban and Regional Research*. 36(1), 90-105.

McManus, P. & Gibbs, D., 2008, Industrial Ecosystems? The Use of Tropes in the Industrial Ecology and Eco-Industrial Park Literature, *Progress in Human Geography*: 32 (4), 525-540

Plus over 70 other journal articles, 3 edited books, 18 book chapters, articles in *The Conversation* and numerous encyclopaedia and dictionary entries

POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION COMPLETED

(PRIMARY SUPERVISOR, NOT INCLUDING NUMEROUS AUXILIARY SUPERVISIONS)

16 PhD students, 2 Research Masters, 41 Honours, 9 Master of Sustainability Capstone Projects

AWARDS AND HONOURS

| | |
|------|---|
| 2025 | Finalist, SUPRA Supervisor of the Year (Science) |
| 2013 | Fellowship of the GSNSW |
| 2003 | The University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching |
| 2002 | The University of Sydney Faculty of Science Teaching Excellence Award |

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT (MOST SIGNIFICANT)

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 2025- | International Geographical Union (IGU) Treasurer |
| 2022-2026 | International Geographical Union (IGU) Vice President |
| 2022- | Council Member, National Committee for Geographical Sciences |
| 2021 | Convenor (Lead Organiser) – Institute of Australian Geographers and New Zealand Geographical Society Combined Conference 2021. |
| 2020-2025 | Co-Convenor of the Nature, Risk and Resilience Study Group of the IAG |
| 2018-2021 | Vice-President, Geographical Society of NSW (GSNSW) |
| 2018 | Chair- Review of Environmental Management, Flinders University |
| 2015-2019 | Head of School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney |
| 2014-2021 | Council Member, National Committee for Geographical Sciences |
| 2014-2018 | President, Geographical Society of NSW (GSNSW) |
| 2012-2014 | President, Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) (V-P. 2010-12 and 2014-16). |

UPDATED 13 FEBRUARY, 2026



When elected as Vice President in 2022 I promised to work collaboratively with Executive Committee colleagues on six areas:

- Promoting the participation in IGU of all geographers irrespective of race, citizenship, language, political stance, sub-disciplinary focus, age, wealth, or gender.
- Supporting the ongoing development of digital resources and making them as accessible as possible.
- Facilitating interaction and scholarly collaborations across regions, sub-disciplines and with compatible disciplines at the global scale.
- Fostering talent and building research capacities by supporting Indigenous and multilingual research and publication and the involvement of early career researchers.
- Promoting the development of research that connects with policy and practice.
- Working to ensure the health of the IGU's financial position.

These commitments are crucial for 2026-2030. Over the past four years I have represented the IGU internationally in the International Science Council roundtables engaging with representatives from other fields of science, worked with colleagues to distribute funding support for emerging geographers to travel to conferences, contributed to important policy initiatives, worked respectfully on sensitive political issues and have been the ongoing liaison person for the 36th IGC in Melbourne, 2028.

I have supported the development of research through publishing in the IGU Series on Contemporary Geographies and have worked to ensure the financial health of the IGU. I have been Treasurer since January 2025 and bring knowledge and experience to this important role, which is vital as we relocate IGU operations to Paris, including treasury functions.

My approach to leadership is focused on working to enhance the capacity of both organisations and people. I will continue to work closely and collaboratively with members of the IGU Executive, national committees, IGU Commissions, geographers and other organisation to advance the objectives of the Union, and in doing so advance geography.

Candidacy of Professor Maria PARADISO

Unità Relazioni Internazionali
Il Responsabile

Professor Nathalie Lemarchand
IGU President
University Paris 8
E-Mail: nlemarchand02@univ-paris8.fr,
nlemarchan@aol.com

Object: Nomination of Professor Maria PARADISO for position of Vice-President, IGU (re-election)

Dear President Professor Lemarchand, dear Nathalie,

The IGU National Committee of Italy unanimously endorses Professor Maria Paradiso's nomination for re-election to the position of IGU Vice President.

We support Maria Paradiso since she over decades has been actively committed in IGU and secured substantial results in her roles and cooperation with Colleagues and IGU bodies. Prof. Paradiso has made important contribution to the IGU successfully serving in different Commissions and ensuring trustful cooperation also in her role of National Committee Chair. Moreover, in her role of ISC Governing Board, she prompted communications channels for fair information about developments and knowledge in the IGU and geographical worlds about ISC, in close cooperation with Presidents and EC.

Over the years Maria Paradiso has demonstrated, nationally and internationally, solid work and achievements and she worked with truly cooperative attitude. Her experience is very well known and appreciated as well as her friendly and enabling attitude towards Colleagues. Maria Paradiso knows well the IGU world and mechanisms since she has also cooperated with IGU past Presidents like Professor Vallega and Professor Buttimer. If Maria Paradiso is re-elected surely will devote much energy and commitment for the benefit of the IGU community, in a collegial way with EC and Commissions.

Thus, I do sign this letter of nomination on behalf of National Council of Research of Italy, the institution representing Italy in IGU.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Virginia Coda Nunziante
Head International Relations Unit,
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Annexes:

- CV Maria Paradiso
- Statement of Intent Paradiso

CURRICULUM VITAE MARIA PARADISO

Personal details.

Maria Paradiso, Italian, born in Naples, Italy, is Full Professor of Geography, University of Naples Federico II. Via Porta di Massa 1

Maria.paradiso@unina.it;

1mariaparadiso@gmail.com

<https://orcid.org/0009-0006-0582-8044>

<https://www.docenti.unina.it/teacher/>

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3636483730463833394c/profile/cv



SHORT CV.

International Geographical Union IGU

In 2022 Maria has been elected Vice President of the International Geographical Union IGU. She established jointly with IGU Past President Mike Meadows and current President Nathalie Lemarchand, the IGU Ethical Guidance Committee. She coordinates the Committee and greatly cooperates with Colleagues Anindita Datta, Bernardo Mançano Fernandes, Pankaj Kumar, Virginie Mamadouh, Marek Wieckowski. She is Steering in the newly established IGU task force on GEOAI, after co-chairing an initial round table on the topic in IGC 2024 Dublin. Maria Paradiso founded and chaired the IGU Commission Mediterranean Basin in 2012, the first Commission with a regional focus in IGU, which has been awarded by IGU. Maria introduced the best practice in IGU of a funded international scientific project where an IGU Commission had an official position (EU FP7 People Marie curie IRSES MEDCHANGe). Before, she served as Coordinator of the Mediterranean Task Force). She served as Vice Chair of the IGU Commission ‘Geography of Information Society’ (till 2012) and has been contributing since 2001 to the development -nationally and internationally -of this new field of research in Geography with an interdisciplinary perspective.

Since 2022 Maria has been extensively committing in ensuring stable communications and cooperation ISC-IGU with IGU President and EC, among other duties.

Academia Europaea

Maria has served as the Chair of Social Sciences Section in Academia Europaea (London); as the Chair of Academia Europea’s (London) ‘Mobility, Governance, Environment, Space’ Section till 2024. She cooperated intensively there with Professors Anne Buttimer and Antoine Bailly. She has been AE nominated member since 2010.

International Science Council (ISC)

- ISC Ordinary Member, Governing Board (2021-2026).
- ISC Founder Fellow.
- Steering Committee, Social Science for Sustainability (2025-).
- Member, Standing Committee for Outreach and Engagement (2022-2025).
- Steering Committee, ISC GOOS, Global Oceans Observation systems (2025-)

Maria is Italy's National Chair (National Council Research is the official body representing Italy in IGU, other members are Italian Geographical Society and Association of Italian Geographers).

Research activity and interests

She has been European Primary Coordinator of MEDCHANGE grant, N 612639 EU FP7 MC IRSES 2012-2014 a Consortium of 9 Universities from Europe, North Africa, Middle East devoted to the study of Mediterranean mobilities. Her main interest in the decade 2012-2022 has been the exploration of changes in the Mediterranean relationships, through narratives of people in mobilities across the Mediterranean and the better understanding of cultural dialogue and human development. In 2022, she started cooperation and new endeavours in Marine studies (oceans and seas as social spaces; human geography approaches and methodologies for marine sustainability with a special focus on inner seas). She is currently research leader in PNRR_National Biodiversity Future Center (NBFC), Italy. She is Director of MarGeoLab, Marine Geography Lab at University of Naples Federico II, Italy. Maria leads the Geography work package of Sulilea project (coastal planning and citizens' science, Euro-Mediterranean project). Paradiso got teaching, conference, and research invitations by several Universities and Academies from all over the world such as the University of Bordeaux Montaigne, Lexington University, Sorbonne Paris, University of Toulouse, Le Havre, the National University of Seoul, University of Ghent, University of Tokyo and Waseda, University of Ankara, Istanbul, Hassan II Mohammed Casablanca, Cadi Ayyad Marrakesh, CERES Tunis, Israeli Academy of Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, University of Cape Town, African Academy of Sciences, Nanjing University, Cairo University, University of Autonomia Barcelona, Girona, Valencia. She got sponsorships by many international and national scientific and granting bodies. She has been Section Chair of the Section 'Mobility, Governance, Environment, Space' of Academia Europaea (London) the academy of European distinguished scholars. Previously Maria coordinated the Section of Social Sciences in AE. She has been serving in Academia Europaea since 2010. In a strong connection with IGU and GeoUnions and a number of National Academies, in 2021 she has been elected in International Science Council Governors Board, the world multidisciplinary organisation for world science.

She is author of five books, several edited book in Italian and English with an overall production of more than 100 publications in two languages beyond Italian, several scientific and managerial report for projects monitoring and scientific assessments which has been included ERC advancing grants and ESF bids among others. She has always demonstrated results in championing geography in multidisciplinary networks and projects and links among science, society, policy making. She believes in the ancient idea of collegial and friendly attitude of scholars' networks across borders. Maria is interested in cooperation for developing methodologies and practices for science commitment towards more equitable societies across the Globe.

Current research keywords

- Marine Geopolitics
- Shipping.
- Marine biodiversity

Employment

2022-University of Naples Federico II, Department of Humanities. Full Professor

2019 University 'Statale' of Milan, Full Professor

2012 Habilitated Full Professor.

2000 Associate Professor, University of Sannio, Italy.

1996 Lecturer in Geography, University of Sannio, Italy.

In 1996 Maria Paradiso moved from University of Naples to University of Sannio serving as a member of the founding group of a new University, located in a peripheral mountain area, and she developed commitment and skills in a vision of University and science as a pillar for local development and inclusion.

1990-1996 Research Assistance and teaching instructor (without a stable position, often on voluntary basis).

1992-1993 Grant researcher on GIS for human geography (National Council of Research and Department of Geography, Political Sciences Faculty, University of Naples).

-1990 Experience in a multinational company as a assistant budget controller.

Teaching

She carried out several geography teaching program all levels (PhD included) which range from General Human Geography to Planning for heritage valorization, Marine geopolitics, Urban and regional planning, tourism geography.

Education

1993 PhD with a grant in Political Geography at the Universities of Trieste, Paris Sorbonne consortiated. 1990, Post MA 1 year master in Urban and Regional Planning at the Polytechnic of Turin (grant winner). 1988 Master of Art degree (with honours, magna cum laude) in Political Sciences with a thesis in urban and regional planning (University of Naples, 1988).

Statement of Intent – Maria PARADISO

I am happy to share my statement for two reasons: one is my long active militancy in IGU and the second one is the commitment, if elected, to continue to support bridges between geography and other scientific arenas, among others the International Science Council, and inclusivity in the IGU participation. I had active roles in IGU. I served in the Commission Geography of Information Society first as a Commission member, then Steering committee, Executive Secretary and Vice President between 2002 and 2012. It has been such a vibrant experience of scientific great cooperation as well as a group of people with true friendship! In my experience in IGU, I have been blessed by the possibility of a close cooperation with IGU Presidents Anne Buttimer and Adalberto Vallega in establishing and developing an IGU task force entitled Mediterranean Renaissance. My service there has been as the MRP Executive Secretary first, than its Coordinator. I devoted many energies, thoughts, actions in having, with Colleagues, this task force flourishing and achieving a good reputation, after that Adalberto passed the way. I could have the possibility with Colleagues and in a close cooperation with IGU EC and past President Ron Abler, to demonstrate effectiveness, inclusion of scholars from new countries, scientific results, successful outreach. My leadership in cooperation with board colleagues turned out in establishing the first IGU Commission with a regional focus in IGU history, during the Cologne Congress. I served as the Chair of COMB- Commission of Mediterranean Basin where happy memories and endeavours marked my scholar and human experience. I serve as the Italy IGU National Committee Chair. After 2022 election as Vice President, I had marvelous opportunities to cooperate with EC Colleagues, Presidents Meadows and Lemarchand, General Secretary in all fronts. Specifically I engaged, upon mandate of IGU President Lemarchand, in setting up the IGU Ethical Guidance and the first Ethical Committee where I cooperate as Coordinator with EC Colleagues Anindita Datta, Bernardo Mancano Fernandes, Marek Wieckowsky and Professor Virginie Mamadouh; I established regular communication and advice with IGU Presidents and board to strenghten possibilities for the Geography world within ISC, which resulted, after a collegial coordination and effective role by IGU Presidents in new nominations for Geographers in ISC.

If re-elected as IG VP, in cooperation with IGU President and EC, Commissions, National Committees, I would continue within IGU for sharing my experience and contacts in multidisciplinary international organisations such as par example Academia Europaea, International Science Council, on a fair basis. My commitment, in a collegial attitude, is proposed for the following areas:

- Enhancing the profile of IGU and visibility of geography in outreach and engagement with other members of the (social) scientific community, governments, civil society
- Enhancing inclusivity in IGU participation
- Supporting the vision of (geographical) science as a public good

I have a strong sense of belonging to the IGU and my positionality is about an idea of science which is built on human values of cooperation, solidarity, respect.

Maria Paradiso
Full Professor of Geography,
Department of Humanities
University of Naples 'Federico II'
ITALY

Unità Relazioni Internazionali
Il Responsabile

Professeure Nathalie Lemarchand
Présidente de l'UGI
University Paris 8
E-Mail: nlemarchand02@univ-paris8.fr,
nlemarchan@aol.com

Objet : Candidature de la professeure Maria PARADISO au poste de vice-présidente de l'IGU (réélection)

Chère Présidente, chère Professeure Lemarchand, chère Nathalie,

Le Comité national italien de l'UGI soutient à l'unanimité la candidature de la professeure Maria Paradiso à sa réélection au poste de vice-présidente de l'IGU.

Nous soutenons Maria Paradiso, car elle s'est engagée activement au sein de l'UGI pendant des décennies et a obtenu des résultats substantiels dans ses fonctions et sa coopération avec ses collègues et les organes de l'UGI. Mme Prof. Paradiso a apporté une contribution importante à l'UGI en siégeant avec succès au sein de différentes commissions et en assurant une coopération de confiance, notamment dans son rôle de présidente du Comité national. De plus, en tant que membre du Conseil d'administration de l'ISC, elle a favorisé la mise en place de canaux de communication pour une information équitable sur les développements et les connaissances au sein de l'UGI et dans le monde de la géographie concernant l'ISC, en étroite collaboration avec les présidents et le Comité exécutif.

Au fil des ans, Maria Paradiso a fait preuve, tant au niveau national qu'international, d'un travail solide et de réalisations concrètes, et d'une attitude véritablement coopérative. Son expérience est très bien connue et appréciée, tout comme son attitude amicale et encourageante envers ses collègues. Maria Paradiso connaît bien le monde et les mécanismes de l'UGI, puisqu'elle a également coopéré avec d'anciens présidents de l'UGI tels que le professeur Vallega et le professeur Buttimer. Si Maria Paradiso est réélue, elle consacrera sans aucun doute beaucoup d'énergie et d'engagement au profit de la communauté de l'UGI, en collaboration avec le Comité exécutif et les commissions.

C'est donc au nom du Conseil National de la Recherche d'Italie CNR, l'institution représentant l'Italie au sein de l'UGI, que je signe cette lettre de nomination.

Cordialement,

Virginia Coda Nunziante
Responsable des relations internationales
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Ci-joint:

- CV Maria Paradiso
- Déclaration d'intention Maria Paradiso

CURRICULUM VITAE MARIA PARADISO

Données personnelles.

Maria Paradiso, de nationalité italienne, née à Naples, en Italie, est professeure titulaire de Géographie à l'Université Federico II de Naples. Via Porta di Massa n.1

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CV ABRÉGÉ.

Union géographique internationale (UGI)

En 2022, Maria a été élue vice-présidente de l'Union Géographique Internationale (UGI). Elle a créé, conjointement avec l'ancien président de l'UGI Mike Meadows et l'actuelle présidente Nathalie Lemarchand, le Comité de déontologie de l'UGI. Elle coordonne le comité et travaille en étroite collaboration avec ses collègues Anindita Datta, Bernardo Mançano Fernandes, Pankaj Kumar, Virginie Mamadouh et Marek Wieckowski. Elle est dans le groupe de travail de l'UGI sur la GEOAI, récemment créé, après avoir coprésidé une première table ronde sur le sujet lors de l'IGC 2024 à Dublin. Maria Paradiso a fondé et présidé la Commission du Bassin Méditerranéen de l'UGI en 2012, la première commission à vocation régionale au sein de l'UGI, qui a reçu 'IGU award'. Maria a introduit au sein de l'UGI la bonne pratique consistant à mener un projet scientifique international financé dans lequel une commission de l'UGI occupait une position officielle (EU FP7 People Marie Curie IRSES MEDCHANGE). Auparavant, elle a occupé le poste de coordinatrice du groupe de travail sur la Méditerranée. Elle a occupé le poste de vice-présidente de la Commission de l'UGI « Géographie de la société de l'information » (jusqu'en 2012) et contribué depuis 2001 au développement, à l'échelle nationale et internationale, de ce nouveau domaine de recherche en géographie dans une perspective interdisciplinaire.

Depuis 2022, Maria s'engage activement, entre autres fonctions, à assurer une communication et une coopération stables entre l'ISC-UGI, le Président de l'UGI et la Commission européenne.

Academia Europaea

Maria a été présidente de la Section des Sciences Sociales de l'Academia Europaea (Londres); elle a également présidé la section « Mobilité, gouvernance, environnement, espace » de l'Academia Europaea (Londres) jusqu'en 2024. Elle y a collaboré étroitement avec les professeurs Anne Buttimer et Antoine Bailly. Elle est membre nommée de l'AE depuis 2010.

Conseil International des Sciences (ISC)

- Membre ordinaire de l'ISC, Conseil d'administration (2021-2026).
- Membre fondateur de ISC Fellows.
- Comité directeur Sciences sociales pour la durabilité (2025-).
- Membre du Comité permanent pour la sensibilisation et l'engagement (2022-2025).
- Comité directeur de l'ISC GOOS, Systèmes mondiaux d'observation des océans (2025-)

Maria est la présidente du Comité National UGI de l'Italie (le Conseil national de la recherche est l'organisme officiel représentant l'Italie au sein de l'UGI ; les autres membres sont la Société géographique italienne et l'Association des géographes italiens).

Activités et intérêts scientifiques

Elle a été coordinatrice principale européenne de la subvention MEDCHANGE, N 612639 EU FP7 MC IRSES 2012-2014, un consortium de 9 universités d'Europe, d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient consacré à l'étude des mobilités méditerranéennes. Au cours de la décennie 2012-2022, elle s'est principalement intéressée à l'exploration des changements dans les relations méditerranéennes, à travers les récits de personnes en situation de mobilité à travers la Méditerranée et une meilleure compréhension du dialogue culturel et du développement humain. En 2022, elle a entamé une coopération et de nouvelles initiatives dans le domaine des études marines (les océans et les mers en tant qu'espaces sociaux ; approches et méthodologies de la géographie humaine pour la durabilité marine, avec un accent particulier sur les mers intérieures). Elle est actuellement responsable de recherche au sein du PNRR_National Biodiversity Future Center (NBFC), en Italie. Elle est directrice du MarGeoLab, laboratoire de géographie marine à l'université Federico II de Naples, en Italie. Maria dirige le volet « Géographie » du projet Sulilea (aménagement du littoral et science citoyenne, projet euro-méditerranéen). Paradiso a reçu des invitations à enseigner, à intervenir lors de conférences et à mener des recherches de la part de plusieurs universités et académies du monde entier, telles que l'Université Bordeaux Montaigne, l'Université de Lexington, la Sorbonne à Paris, l'université de Toulouse, Le Havre, l'université nationale de Séoul, l'université de Gand, les universités de Tokyo et de Waseda, ainsi que les universités d'Ankara, d'Istanbul, Hassan II Mohammed à Casablanca, Cadi Ayyad à Marrakech, CERES à Tunis, l'Académie israélienne des sciences, l'Académie chinoise des sciences, l'université du Cap, l'Académie africaine des sciences, l'université de Nanjing, l'université du Caire, l'université Autonoma de Barcelone, Gérone et Valence. Elle a bénéficié du soutien de nombreux organismes scientifiques et de financement internationaux et nationaux. Elle a été présidente de la section « Mobilité, gouvernance, environnement, espace » de l'Academia Europaea (Londres), l'académie des éminents chercheurs européens. Auparavant, Maria a coordonné la section des sciences sociales au sein de l'AE. Elle est membre de l'Academia Europaea depuis 2010. En étroite collaboration avec l'UGI, GeoUnions et plusieurs académies nationales, elle a été élue en 2021 au Conseil d'administration de l'International Science Council, l'organisation multidisciplinaire mondiale pour la science.

Elle est l'auteure de cinq ouvrages, a édité plusieurs recueils en italien et en anglais, et compte à son actif plus de 100 publications dans deux langues autres que l'italien, ainsi que de nombreux rapports scientifiques et de gestion pour le suivi de projets et des évaluations scientifiques, notamment dans le cadre de subventions ERC « Advancing Grants » et de candidatures au Fonds social européen (FSE). Elle a toujours obtenu des résultats en promouvant la géographie au sein de réseaux et de projets multidisciplinaires et en établissant des liens entre la science, la société et l'élaboration des politiques. Elle croit en l'idée ancienne d'une attitude collégiale et amicale au sein des réseaux de chercheurs par-delà les frontières. Maria s'intéresse à la coopération pour le développement de méthodologies et de pratiques visant à engager la science en faveur de sociétés plus équitables à travers le monde.

Mots-clés de recherche actuels

- Géopolitique marine
- Transport maritime
- Biodiversité marine

Parcours professionnel

2022 – Université Federico II de Naples, Département des sciences humaines. Professeure titulaire

2019 – Université « Statale » de Milan, professeure titulaire

2012 – Professeure titulaire habilitée.

2000 – Maître de conférences, Université du Sannio, Italie.

1996 - Maîtresse de conférences en géographie, Université du Sannio, Italie.

En 1996, Maria Paradiso a quitté l'Université de Naples pour rejoindre l'Université du Sannio, où elle a fait partie du groupe fondateur de cette nouvelle université, située dans une zone montagneuse périphérique, et a développé son engagement et ses compétences dans une vision de l'université et de la science comme piliers du développement local et de l'inclusion.

1990-1996 Assistante de recherche et chargée de cours (sans poste stable, souvent à titre bénévole).

1992-1993 Chercheuse boursière en SIG pour la géographie humaine (Conseil national de la recherche et Département de géographie, Faculté des sciences politiques, Université de Naples).

-1990 Expérience dans une entreprise multinationale en tant qu'assistante contrôleur budgétaire.

Enseignement

Elle a dispensé plusieurs programmes d'enseignement en géographie à tous les niveaux (y compris le doctorat), allant de la géographie humaine générale à la planification pour la valorisation du patrimoine, en passant par la géopolitique marine, l'urbanisme et l'aménagement du territoire, ainsi que la géographie du tourisme.

Formation

1993 : Doctorat avec bourse en géographie politique à l'Université de Trieste, en consortium avec l'Université Paris-Sorbonne. 1990, Master d'un an en aménagement urbain et régional à l'École polytechnique de Turin (boursière). 1988, Master of Arts (avec mention très bien, magna cum laude) en sciences politiques avec une thèse sur l'aménagement urbain et régional (Université de Naples, 1988).

Déclaration d'intention – Maria PARADISO

Je suis heureuse de partager ma déclaration pour deux raisons : la première est mon engagement militant de longue date au sein de l'UGI et la seconde est mon engagement, si je suis élue, à continuer de soutenir les ponts entre la géographie et d'autres domaines scientifiques, notamment le Conseil international des sciences, ainsi que l'inclusivité dans la participation à l'UGI. J'ai joué un rôle actif au sein de l'UGI. J'ai siégé à la Commission « Géographie de la société de l'information », d'abord en tant que membre de la Commission, puis au sein du comité de pilotage, en tant que secrétaire exécutive et vice-présidente entre 2002 et 2012. Ce fut une expérience très enrichissante, marquée par une excellente coopération scientifique et par un groupe de personnes liées par une véritable amitié!

Au cours de mon expérience au sein de l'UGI, j'ai eu la chance de pouvoir coopérer étroitement avec les présidents de l'UGI Anne Buttimer et Adalberto Vallega pour créer et développer un groupe de travail de l'UGI intitulé « Renaissance méditerranéenne ». J'y ai d'abord occupé le poste de secrétaire exécutif du MRP, puis celui de coordinatrice. J'ai consacré beaucoup d'énergie, de réflexion et d'efforts, avec mes collègues, pour faire prospérer ce groupe de travail et lui permettre d'acquérir une bonne réputation, après le départ d'Adalberto. J'ai eu l'occasion, avec mes collègues et en étroite collaboration avec le Comité exécutif de l'UGI et l'ancien président Ron Abler, de démontrer notre efficacité, l'intégration de chercheurs issus de nouveaux pays, nos résultats scientifiques et le succès de nos actions de sensibilisation. Mon leadership, en collaboration avec mes collègues du comité, a abouti à la création de la première commission de l'UGI à vocation régionale de l'histoire de l'UGI, lors du congrès de Cologne. J'ai occupé le poste de présidente de la COMB (Commission du bassin méditerranéen), où des souvenirs heureux et des efforts acharnés ont marqué mon expérience scientifique et humaine. Je suis présidente du Comité national italien de l'UGI. Après mon élection en 2022 au poste de vice-présidente, j'ai eu de merveilleuses occasions de coopérer avec mes collègues du Comité exécutif, les présidents Meadows et Lemarchand, ainsi que le secrétaire général, sur tous les fronts. Plus précisément, j'ai été chargée, sur mandat de la présidente de l'UGI, Mme Lemarchand, de mettre en place le Code d'éthique de l'UGI et le premier Comité d'éthique, au sein duquel je collabore en tant que coordinatrice avec mes collègues du Comité exécutif Anindita Datta, Bernardo Mancano Fernandes, Marek Wieckowsky et la professeure Virginie Mamadouh. J'ai établi une communication régulière et fourni des conseils aux présidents et au conseil d'administration de l'UGI afin de renforcer les possibilités pour le monde de la géographie au sein de l'ISC, ce qui a abouti, après une coordination collégiale et un rôle efficace des présidents de l'UGI, à de nouvelles nominations de géographes au sein de l'ISC.

Si je suis réélue au poste de vice-présidente de l'UGI, en coopération avec la présidente de l'IGU, le Comité exécutif et les commissions, ainsi que les comités nationaux, je continuerai, au sein de l'UGI, à partager mon expérience et mes contacts au sein d'organisations internationales multidisciplinaires telles que, par exemple, l'Academia Europaea ou le Conseil international des sciences, sur une base équitable.

Mon engagement, dans un esprit de collégialité, porte sur les domaines suivants :

- Renforcer le profil de l'UGG et la visibilité de la géographie dans la communication et l'engagement auprès des autres membres de la communauté scientifique, des gouvernements et de la société civile
- Renforcer l'inclusivité dans la participation à l'UGG
- Soutenir la vision de la science (géographique) en tant que bien public

J'ai un fort sentiment d'appartenance à l'UGG et ma position repose sur une conception de la science fondée sur les valeurs humaines de coopération, de solidarité et de respect.

Maria Paradiso
Professeure titulaire de Géographie,
Département des Sciences Humaines
Université de Naples « Federico II »
ITALIE

Candidacy of Professor Takashi YAMAZAKI

CURRICULUM VITAE
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March 2026

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Educational History:

Ph. D. University of Colorado at Boulder, U.S.A., 2004 (Geography)

M.A. Kyoto University, Japan, 1989 (Geography)

B.A. Kyoto University, Japan, 1985 (Geography)

Awards and Scholarships:

The Best Article Award (by the Human Geographical Society of Japan), 2002.

Dissertation Enhancement Award (by the Association of American Geographers Political Geography Specialty Group), 2001.

Fulbright Scholarship for Graduate Study, 1998-2001.

Professional History ([E] = in English, [J] = in Japanese):

Professor, Graduate School and Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Osaka Metropolitan University (formerly Osaka City University), 2022-present. [J]

Director, University Media Center (Library), Osaka City University, 2015-2022 [J]

Guest Professor, School of Geography and Planning, Sun Yat-Sen University, China, 2015- 2017 [J] [E]

Vice Director, University Media Center, Osaka City University, 2010-2015 [J]

Professor, Graduate School and Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Osaka City University, 2008-2021. [J]

Associate Professor, Graduate School and Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Osaka City University, 2001-2008. [J]

Associate Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Yamaguchi Prefectural University, 1996-1999. [J]

Full-time Lecturer, Faculty of International Studies, Yamaguchi Women's University (currently Yamaguchi Prefectural University), 1994-1996. [J]

Geography Assistant, Department of Geography, Kyoto University, 1990-1994. [J]

Part-time Teacher, Doshisha Junior High School, 1989-1990. [J]

Current Research Interests:

Political Geography: Militarization/Demilitarization in postwar Okinawa; geopolitics of the Japan-US alliance; political geographies of islands in East Asia; and the postwar development of Japanese political geography.

Selected Publications since 2015 ([J] = in Japanese, [E] = in English):

Books

Yamazaki, T. ed. 2026. *Contextualizing Borders in East Asia*. Routledge. Forthcoming. [E]

Yamazaki, T. and G. Baldacchino, eds. 2025. *Relational Geographies of Islands in the Indo-Pacific: Environment,*

Society, and Politics. Springer, Singapore. xv + 182p. [E]

Yamazaki, T. ed. 2022. *Doing Political Geographies: Methodologies of Political Geography*. Nakanishiya Shuppan, iv + 236p. [J]

Book Chapters

Yamazaki, T. 2025. Dual militarization of the Pacific island: continuing colonial transformation of Okinawa, Japan. In T. Yamazaki and G. Baldacchino eds. *Relational Geographies of Islands in the Indo-Pacific: Environment, Society, and Politics*. Springer. 141-162, 2025. [E]

Takagi, A. and T. Yamazaki. 2025. Political geography. In the Editorial Board for the Centennial History of the Geographical Association of Japan, ed. *The Centennial History of Japanese Geographies*, Kokon-shoin, 159-169. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2024. Political geographies in cities. In Abe, K. ed. *Urban Geography Research in Japan*, Kokon-shoin, 281-295. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic and bio/geopolitics in Japan. In Stanley Brunn and Donna Gilbreath eds. *COVID-19 and a World of Ad Hoc Geographies*. Springer, Cham, Switzerland, 2327-2344. [E]

Yamazaki, T. 2022. Spatial practices countering risks. In K. Takenaka ed. *Perspectives of Human Geography*. Mineruva Shobo, 162-178. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2018. Maritime trade and geopolitics: the Indian Ocean as Japan's sea lane. In R. C. Kloosterman, V. Mamadouh and P. Terhorst eds. *Handbook on the Geographies of Globalization*. Edward Elger, Cheltenham Glos, UK, 388-401. [E]

Yamazaki, T. 2017. The reinstitutionalization of island identities in Japan. In D. Kaplan and G. Herb, eds. *Scaling Identities: Nationalism and Territoriality*. Rowman & Littlefield, 185-201. [E]

Yamazaki, T. 2017. From inter-state to multi-scalar political geographies: an East Asian perspective. In Y. Liu, ed. *Towards New Political Geographies: Bridging East and West*. China Review Academic Publishers, Hong Kong, China, 22-40. [E]

Yamazaki, T. 2017. "Osaka Metropolis Plan" as the politics of re-scaling. In M. Sato and Y. Maeda, eds. *Local Governance and Region*. Nakanishiya Shuppan, 82-103. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2015. Reading politics from geopolitical discourses. In K. Takenaka et al., eds. *Introduction to Human Geography*. Minerva Shobo, 123-142. [J]

Refereed Journal Articles

Yamazaki, T. and S. Davis. 2025. Rethinking relational geopolitics in contested islands and seas: theoretical and empirical considerations. *Geopolitics* online. [E]

Yamazaki, T. 2024. Contextualizing borders in East Asia: an introduction. *Geopolitics* 29(2): 359-373. [E]

Yamazaki, T. 2020. COVID-19 pandemic in Japan: containment failed or successful? *Geopolitica(s)* 11 (special issue): 81-91. [E]

Yamazaki, T. 2017. Yoichi Shibata *Geopolitics and the Japanese Empire*. *Shirin (The Journal of History)* 100(5): 79-85. September [J]

Non-Refereed Full Articles

Yamazaki, T. 2025. The memories of Koza: border city and contact zone. *Koza Bunka Box* 21: 38-57. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2024. 'Peace' learned from Okinawa City: through the memories of the military base town. Toyonaka City and Okinawa City eds. *50-Year Anniversary Commemoration Booklet for the Brother-City Relations between Toyonaka City and Okinawa City*. 41-50. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2018. From geopolitics to a political geography of "peace and environment": Thirty-five years of IGU Commission on Political Geography. *Gakujutu no doko (Orientations of the Academia)* 23(7): 24-29. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2018. The politics of Okinawa Prefecture seen from "geopolitics." *Chiri (Geography)* 63(3): 38-45. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2017. A note on the outlook of geopolitics. *Gendai-shiso (Modern Thoughts)* 45(18): 51-59. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2017. How can we teach political geography using election results? *Rekishito-Chiri (History and*

Geography) 703: 1-9. [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2016. Plural “Okinawa” as seen from elections: where were public opinions revealed? *SYNODOS-Shinodosu* (online). [J]

Yamazaki, T. 2016. Borders, territories, and “the territorial trap”: for the understanding of concepts. *Chiri (Geography)* 61(6): 88-96. [J]

Activities in the Academic Circle ([E] = in English, [J] = in Japanese):

Member of the Special Committee for Internationalization of the Geographical Association of Japan (2025-present) [J]

Vice-Chair of the Japan Committee for the IGU (established within the Science Council of Japan) (2024-present) [J]

Steering Committee Member of the International Geographical Union Commission on Islands (2024-present) [E]

Executive director (for planning and public relations) of the Human Geographical Society of Japan (2022-present) [J]

Chief organizer of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Thematic Conference Osaka 2023 (2021-present) [E]

Scientific Committee member of the International Geographical Congress in Paris (2021-22) [E]

Associate member of the Science Council of Japan (2020-present) [J]

Member of the Advisory Board of the International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography (2017 to present) [E]

Scientific Committee member of the IGU Thematic Conference on Geographies for Peace in La Paz, Bolivia (2017) [E]

Scientific Committee member of the IGU Commission on Political Geography Pre-conference: International Forum on Frontiers of Political Geography, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China (2016) [E]

Councilor of the Human Geographical Society of Japan (2004-08, 2012-2016) [J]

Representative of the Political Geography Research Group, the Human Geographical Society of Japan (2011-2015) [J] [E]

Local representative of the Association of Japanese Geographers (2006-08, 2010-12, 2014-18, 2022-present) [J]

Co-chair of the International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography (2014-2016) [E]

Steering Committee member of the International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography (2004-2016) [E]

Organizing Committee member of the International Geographical Union Kyoto Regional Conference (2011-13) [J] [E]

Co-chair of the Research Committee 15 on Political and Cultural Geography, the International Political Science Association (2007-12) [E]

Editorial Board member of the journal *Geopolítica(s)* (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) (2019-present) [E]

International Editorial Board member of *Journal of Geographical Research* (Department of Geography, National Taiwan Normal University) (2019-present) [E]

Editorial Board member of *Environment and Planning C* (Sage, U.K.) (2017-present) [E]

Editorial Board member of *Political Geography* (Elsevier, U.K.) (2006-present) [E]

Editorial Board member of *Geopolitics* (Taylor & Francis, U.K.) (2014-present, Co-editor 2018-22) [E]

Editorial Board member of *UrbanScope* (Osaka City University Urban-Culture research Center, Japan) (2009-2015, Editor-in-Chief 2009-2012) [J] [E]

STATEMENT OF INTENT

For more than twenty years, I have been actively engaged in IGU-related initiatives in Japan and internationally. I served on the Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (IGU-CPG) from 2004 to 2016 and as Co-Chair with Virginie Mamadouh from 2014 to 2016. During this period, the Commission received the IGU Commission Excellence Award in 2014, in recognition of its significant scholarly contributions. My broader involvement with the IGU grew further when I became Vice-Chair of the Commission Committee for the IGU Kyoto Regional Conference in 2013, where I coordinated IGU-CPG sessions and the post-conference field trip to Okinawa.

Since then, I have continued to contribute to IGU activities by organizing IGU-CPG sessions at the Moscow Regional Conference in 2015, the CPG Pre-conference in Guangzhou, and CPG sessions at the Beijing IGC in 2016. After completing my term as Co-Chair, I collaborated with the IGU Thematic Conference on *Geographies for Peace* in La Paz 2017 and organized the IGU Thematic Conference on *Islands in Relations* in Osaka 2023, in collaboration with the IGU Thematic Conference on *The Ocean and Seas in Geographical Thought* held in Milan the same year. I currently serve as Vice-Chair of the Japan Committee for the IGU (JIGU) and as a Steering Committee member of the IGU Commission on Islands since 2024. Recognizing this longstanding service, JIGU has nominated me for the position of IGU Vice-President in the 2026 election.

My sustained commitment to the IGU — particularly to the IGU-CPG — stems from my identity as a political geographer and my strong belief in the IGU's mission of *internationalism*. Given geography's historical entanglements with imperialism and conflict, I believe contemporary geography carries an ethical responsibility to promote peace through international/cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange. Contemporary geopolitical crises — including those in Ukraine, Gaza, and the Persian Gulf — remind us that while territorial conflicts remain central to geopolitics, their human and environmental consequences are unacceptable. If geography is to support global sustainability, our foremost ethical priority must be safeguarding Earth's environments and all sentient beings. I believe the IGU is uniquely positioned to advance such an 'Earth ethics' through research, practice, and education.

If elected Vice-President, I will pursue the following priorities:

1. **Strengthen collaboration** among IGU National Committees and Commissions addressing transnational and global challenges.
2. **Cooperate with the ISC and Future Earth** to promote interdisciplinary approaches to the SDGs through joint sponsorship and events.
3. **Engage with UN bodies** — including UNGEGN, UNGIIN, UNRISD, and UNHCR — and other international organizations to apply geographical insights toward solving global problems.
4. **Support geography education worldwide**, particularly initiatives such as Education for International Understanding and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).
5. **Enhance global visibility** of the IGU through more robust outreach and communication strategies.

I am committed to advancing the IGU's mission and fostering a more peaceful, sustainable, and interconnected world through geographical scholarship.