

2nd Announcement

IGU Seminar on Geodiversity from Geographical Perspectives 2026 **9:00-11:40 GMT, 6th October 2026 (Tuesday)**

6th October is the International Geodiversity Day, proclaimed by UNESCO in 2021 for a worldwide celebration bringing people together to promote the many aspects of geodiversity. The IGU supports this initiative strongly, and has established a Geodiversity Group in order to enhance awareness of this international day, to highlight the significance of geodiversity, and to explore geographical perspectives on geodiversity. The IGU Geodiversity Group, with the support of the IGU Executive Committee, is pleased to announce the IGU Seminar on Geodiversity from Geographical Perspectives 2026, which will be held online. The theme for this year's International Geodiversity Day has been announced as "Geodiversity On Our Doorstep", encouraging us to explore and recognise the geodiversity that surrounds us from the places we come from and the environments we live in to the landscapes we encounter in our everyday lives.

Seminar Program



Welcome Speech (9:00-9:10)

Prof. Eko Haryono (Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada)



Introduction (9:10-9:20)

Chief Coordinator: Yukio Himiyama (Ph.D. Emeritus Professor, Hokkaido University of Education Past President, International Geographical Union)

Session 1: Geodiversity and Biogeography (9:20-9:40)



Coordinator: Prof. Pei Wang (Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, pwang@ihb.ac.cn)

Geodiversity provides a fundamental basis for understanding biogeographical patterns. This session explores how geology, landforms, soils, and hydrological processes shape species evolution, dispersal, community assembly, and ecosystem distribution. It also examines the interplay between geological history and contemporary environments, promoting the integration of geodiversity into biodiversity conservation and global change research.



Presenters:

1.1 Clayton Ferreira Lino (Director of International Cooperation, Brazilian Network of Biosphere Reserves , Focal Point for the MIDA/UNESCO Program in Brazil)

Geodiversity in Brazil's MIDAs: Conserving Life and Supporting Sustainable Development



1.2 Matej Blatnik (ZRC SAZU Karst Research Institute, Slovenia)

Challenges in hydrological dynamics and biodiversity of the Cerkniško polje intermittent lake, Slovenia

Session 2: Geodiversity and Physical Geography (9:40- 10:00)

Coordinator: Prof. Hiroya Yamano (Department of Earth and Planetary Science, The University of Tokyo)

The present session aims at showcasing the current state of understanding and promoting Geodiversity, highlighting the significance, properties and interpretations of variety of assemblages of 1) geological/geomorphological features and other Earth surface features including soils and landscapes, 2) their spatial-temporal dynamics, 3) the underlying environmental processes, as well as 4) promoting the significance to public.



Presenters:

Prof. Mike Meadows (IGU Immediate Past President)

Session 3: Human Geography for Geodiversity at Our Doorstep (10:00-10:30)

Coordinator: Prof. Maria Paradiso (IGU Vice President, University Federico II, Naples, and National Marine Biodiversity Centre, maria.paradiso@unina.it)

This session explores the dimensions of geodiversity on our doorstep: geodiversity in shaping communities and places and viceversa. It examines the different interplay between contemporary contexts, how they are shaped by communities and policy -makers with awareness or not of geodiversity as a value and an aim for policy-making. The session continues to promote the integration of human geography specialty for geodiversity studies to integrate livelihoods, territorial practices, policies for geo-biodiversity research, conservation and SDGs achievements.



Presenters:

3.1 Helena Tukiainen (Geography Research Unit, University of Oulu, Finland) & Maija Toivanen (Geography Research Unit, University of Oulu, Finland)



Landscapes on your doorstep: exploring the interplay of physical, ecological and social layers



3.2 Anica Cuka (Department of Geography, University of Zadar, Croatia)
Landscapes on your doorstep: exploring the interplay of physical, ecological and social layers
Island Geodiversity: Shaping Landscapes, Livelihoods and Cultures



3.3 Ivan Pistone (University of Naples Federico II, Italy and NFBC)
Geographies of proximity: spatial analysis and citizen science for understanding coastal geodiversity



3.4 Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy), & Stefano Malatesta (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy)
MEDiverSEAty: the Human Dimension of marine eodiversity in the Mediterranean



Session 4: GEODIVERSITY AND SOCIAL & CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY: AT THE DOORSTEP. Living, Belonging and Connecting to the World (10:30-10:50)



Coordinator: Prof. Louis Dupont (Emeritus Professor, Sorbonne University, Paris)

From a social and cultural perspective, a doorstep and even a door is such an inspiring theme, and starting point to open up to geodiversity, be it of the earth or the world(s), as well as the diversity of geography itself. A door separates and connects: Public and private; inside and outside; home and world; safety and danger; welcome and exclusion. A door connects social geography, geography of commerce, and environmental concerns. How does climate change arrive at our doorstep? Food delivery; Amazon-type logistics; postal services; migrant delivery workers; platform economies; consumption; packaging and waste.



Presenters:

4.1 Prof. Louis Dupont (Emeritus Professor, Sorbonne University, Paris)
100 Metres of Geography. The Extraordinary Geography of the Ordinary

4.2 Shangyi Zhou (Professor, Beijing Normal University)
From the Doorstep to the World: Everyday Places, Global Connections

Session 5: Round Table on "Geodiversity On Our Doorstep" (10:50-11:40)



Chair: Prof. Yukio Himiyama (IGU Past President, himiyamay@kkd.biglobe.ne.jp)

Discussants:

- Prof. Yukio Himiyama (IGU Immediate Past President)
- Prof. Eko Haryono (Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada)
- Prof. Mike Meadows (IGU Immediate Past President)
- Prof. Pei Wang (Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences)
- Prof. Maria Paradiso (IGU Vice President, National Biodiversity Future Center)
- Prof. Louis Dupont (Chair of the IGU Commission on Cultural Geography, Society and Heritage, Institute of Geography, Sorbonne University, France)
- Prof. Hiroya Yamano (Department of Earth and Planetary Science, The University of Tokyo)



Linkage : <https://ugm-id.zoom.us/j/96793819676>

Meeting ID : 967 9381 9676

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Host : Prof. Eko Haryono