



Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles

ASOCIACIÓN DE GEÓGRAFOS ESPAÑOLES: PERSPECTIVAS DE INTERNACIONALIZACIÓN

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C12.20 de la UGI**

MESA REDONDA CON EL PROFESOR VLADIMIR KOLOSOV. PRESIDENTE DE LA UGI

FUNCTIONING OF IGU COMMISSIONS AND TASK FORCES

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**MESA REDONDA “ASOCIACIÓN DE GEÓGRAFOS
ESPAÑOLES: PERSPECTIVAS DE INTERNACIONALIZACIÓN”
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1. IGU COMMISSIONS AND TASK FORCES' AIMS AND RULES

- Commissions and Task Forces are research bodies of the IGU that cover a very wide range of research topics within the discipline of Geography.
- The Commissions and Task Forces differ essentially because the Commissions carry out investigations on an extended subject area, while the Task Forces are established to pursue a specific objective, which may be concerned with research, education or other purposes.
- 41 Commissions and one Task Force existing up to date
<http://igu-online.org/organization/commissions/>

C12.01 Applied Geography
C12.02 Arid Lands, Humankind and Environment
C12.03 Biogeography and Biodiversity
C12.04 Climatology
C12.05 Coastal Systems
C12.06 Cold Region Environments
C12.07 Cultural Approach in Geography
C12.08 Dynamics of Economic Spaces
C12.09 Environment Evolution
C12.10 Gender and Geography
C08.11 Geographical Education
C12.12 Geographical Information Science
C12.13 Geography of Governance
C12.14 Geography of the Global Information Society
C12.15 Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change
C12.16 Geoparks
C12.17 Global Change and Human Mobility
C12.18 Hazard and Risk
C12.19 Health and Environment
C12.20 History of Geography
C12.21 Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges and Rights
C12.22 Islands
C12.23 Karst
C12.24 Land Degradation and Desertification
C12.25 Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning
C12.26 Land Use and Land Cover Change
C12.27 Latin American Studies
C08.28 Local Development
C12.29 Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses
C12.30 Mediterranean Basin
C12.31 Modeling Geographical Systems
C12.32 Mountain Response to Global Change
C12.33 Political Geography
C08.34 Population Geography
C08.35 Sustainability of Rural Systems
C12.36 Toponymy
C12.37 Transformation Processes in Megacities (...)
C12.38 Transport and Geography
C12.39 Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World
C12.40 Water Sustainability
C12.41 Geomorphology and Society
T12.01 Olympiad

•The IGU Statutes includes a whole section (paragraph VI) which is concerned with the Commissions. These are the key points:

➤ **Paragraph VI, A**

Background goals — Commissions shall be established for the study of a specific problem or for the accomplishment of a task which requires international collaboration.

➤ **Paragraph VI, A**

The mission — Commissions shall promote individual and group research work, encourage the exchange of relevant documents and information, and organize conferences, meetings and, where appropriate, field excursions, both between Congresses and during International Geographical Congresses.

➤ **Paragraph VI, B**

The establishment proposal and approval— The establishment of a new Commission may be proposed by a member country or by the Executive Committee. It shall be discussed by the General Assembly and may be approved by the Executive Committee

➤ **Paragraph VI, D and J**

▪ ***Commissions composition*** — A Commission shall consist of a Chair and a Steering Committee normally consisting of not more than ten other members [among them, Commissions may designate a Vice-president and a Secretary-Treasurer].

▪ The Steering Committee members shall serve for approximately four years and be eligible for reappointment for a second term of similar length [...] The Chair shall normally be appointed by the General Assembly; the list of steering committee members shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

▪ The maximum term of service on a Commission for a chair or steering committee member in any capacity shall be twelve years.

- Normally, there shall not be more than one member from any one adhering country.

- **Paragraph VI, F**

- Ordinary funding*

Commissions may apply to the Executive Committee for grants of funds to enable them to carry out their work. [Currently, IGU Commissions annual operating grants are of 1000 U.S. dollars]

2. IGU COMMISSIONS' ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

- Commissions activities basically include scientific meetings (within or outside the IGU congresses and conferences), publications , and cooperation efforts with other scientific bodies an institutions at national and international levels
- According to IGU Statutes (paragraph VI, I), each Commission shall prepare a concise report on its work which should be submitted to the Secretary General for the Executive Committee (EC) at least nine months before the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.
 - The report should include an account of the work carried out, the methods used, and the results obtained together, when appropriate, with a program of further research
 - In addition to this **quadrennial report**, Commissions are requested by the EC to submit an **annual report** in the period between the General Assemblies

Items included in the Commissions' annual reports

A. Membership

B. Meetings held and planned

C. Networking (collaborations 1) with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces; 2) with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary groups; 3) with ISSC (International Social Science Council) and with ICSU (the International Council for Science) programs.

D. Publications and web site

E. Archival Contributions (materials and publications transmitted to the IGU archives by each Commission) .

➤ The Commission's reports are published in the *IGU e-Newsletter* and recently at the *IGU web site* too.

<http://igu-online.org/organization/commissions/commission-reports-2012-2013/>

➤ Annual and Quadrennial Commissions reports also provide the EC with information for the **evaluation of Commissions**

Commissions are renewable by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the EC and depending on evidence of activity and continued relevance to the objectives of the Union (Statutes, Paragraph VI: C and I).

3. THE IGU & IUHPST COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY: AN OVERVIEW

- Created in the 21st International Geographical Congress (New Delhi, 1968), as *IGU Commission on the History of Geographical Thought - Commission sur l'histoire de la pensée géographique* . Current title (*Commission on the History of Geography – Commission sur l'histoire de la géographie*) adopted in the 31st International Geographical Congress (Tunis, August 2008).
- Since 1976, also acts as international Commission within the Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST) of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST).

- The Commission on the History of Geography aims to be a forum for promoting and exchanging ideas and outcomes on both the history of the field and, more widely, the history of geographical knowledge, experiences and practices, and their consequences and usefulness for understanding the contemporary world, providing IGU and IUHPS as a whole with a reflective view on the practice and meanings of geography
- Through its 46 years existence, the Commission has carried out a prolonged active work within both the IGU and the IUHPS, reflected, for example, in the almost 50 scientific meetings held and the publication of nearly 45 books (including the 33 *GBS* volumes edited up to present and some proceedings, monographs and journal special issues).

•Commission work plan for 2012-2016

The detailed Commission's work plan for 2012-2016 is available at:

[http://web.univ-Pau.fr/RECHERCHE/UGIHG/06 Documents/2014/IGU Commision History of Geog raphy Report 2008-2012 Plans 2012-2016.pdf](http://web.univ-pau.fr/RECHERCHE/UGIHG/06_Documents/2014/IGU_Commission_History_of_Geography_Report_2008-2012_Plans_2012-2016.pdf)

Work plan and main actions envisaged for 2012-2016 (I)

- 1) To encourage reflection, discussion and the mutual sharing of ideas and results about the different traditions and historiographical trends existing at international level.*
- 2) To promote a better contextual understanding of the relationship between geography and society, within and beyond the academy.*
- 3) To deepen our understanding of the utility of geography as a "reservoir" of ideas and experiences with which to address some relevant social and environmental challenges of the contemporary world.*
- 4) To help to build a history of geography that takes fully into account contributions from beyond the European and Anglo-American regions.*

Work plan and main actions envisaged for 2012-2016 (II)

5) *To provide scholars, at an international level, with the resources and information necessary to conduct high quality research on the history of geography.*

- a) Creating an international directory of groups and associations concerned with the history of geography;
- b) Creating an international directory of archives (both personal and institutional) related to the history of geography;
- c) Introducing some changes in the *GBS* series in order to improve its spread and reach among the international community of geographers and historians;
- d) Creating an online archive of biographical interviews to geographers, on the basis of the materials collected within the framework of the *International Dialogue Project* (1978-1988, A. Buttimer & T. Hagerstrand).

<http://igu-online.org/dialogue-project/>

MEETINGS HELD IN 2013-14 AND PLANNED FOR 2015-2016

1) Last meetings organised and held by the IGU Commission on the History of Geography (from September 2012 up to date) (I)

1. UNITED KINGDOM: Manchester 22-28 July 2013	<p>Symposium on the topic “Geography and its Publics”, jointly organised with the History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), within the framework of the 24th International Congress of History of Science.</p> <p>Number of papers /authors: 18 papers + 2 keynote speakers, by 21 authors</p>
2. JAPAN: Kyoto 4-9 August 2013	<p>Two paper sessions within the framework of the IGU Regional Conference:</p> <p>1) A session on “Languages, materiality and the construction of geographical modernities”, in cooperation with the Geographical Thought Study Group of the Human Geographical Society of Japan.</p> <p>Number of papers /authors: 21 papers, by 29 authors</p> <p>1) A session on the topic “History of Geography, Geographical Thought and Practice, and Gender” , organised jointly with the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography.</p> <p>Number of papers /authors: 8 papers, by 8 authors</p>

Last meetings organised and held by the IGU Commission on the History of Geography (from September 2012 up to date) (II)

<p>3.POLAND: Krakow 18-22 August 2014</p>	<p>Paper session on the topic “What (political) geography ought to be? Theoretical approaches to and historical perspectives on geography and geopolitics as instruments of peace”, jointly organised with the IGU Commission on Political Geography, within the framework of the next IGU Regional Conference</p> <p>Number of papers /authors: 10 papers (by 12 authors)</p>
<p>4. BRAZIL: R�o de Janeiro 16-20 December 2014</p>	<p>Symposium on the topic “The circulation of ideas in the history of geographic knowledge: hierarchies, scales, networks and interactions”, jointly organised with the Brazilian Network on the History of Geography and Historical Geography (<i>Rede Brasileira de Hist�ria da Geografia e Geografia Hist�rica</i>)</p> <p>Number of papers /authors: 50 papers +2 keynote lecturers and commentaries (by 55 authors)</p>

2) Meetings planned for 2015-2016

1. RUSSIA: Moscow 17-21 August 2015

1) Paper session on the topic **“Exploring and mapping lands, air and waters. Research on the History of Geographical Explorations”**, organised within the framework of the next IGU Regional Conference.

Session chairs: Profs. Jacobo García-Álvarez and Alexey V. Postnikov

2) Paper session on the topic **“Rethinking what (political) geography ought to be: theories, histories and practices of geography and geopolitics as instruments of peace”**, jointly organised with the IGU Commission on Political Geography, within the framework of the next IGU Regional Conference

Session chairs: Profs. Takashi Yamazaki and Alexey V. Postnikov

Deadline for abstract submissions: 31 January 2015 (extended to 28 February 2015)

2. CHINA: Beijing 21-25 August, 2016

33rd IGU Congress: Commission topic and type of activity still not decided

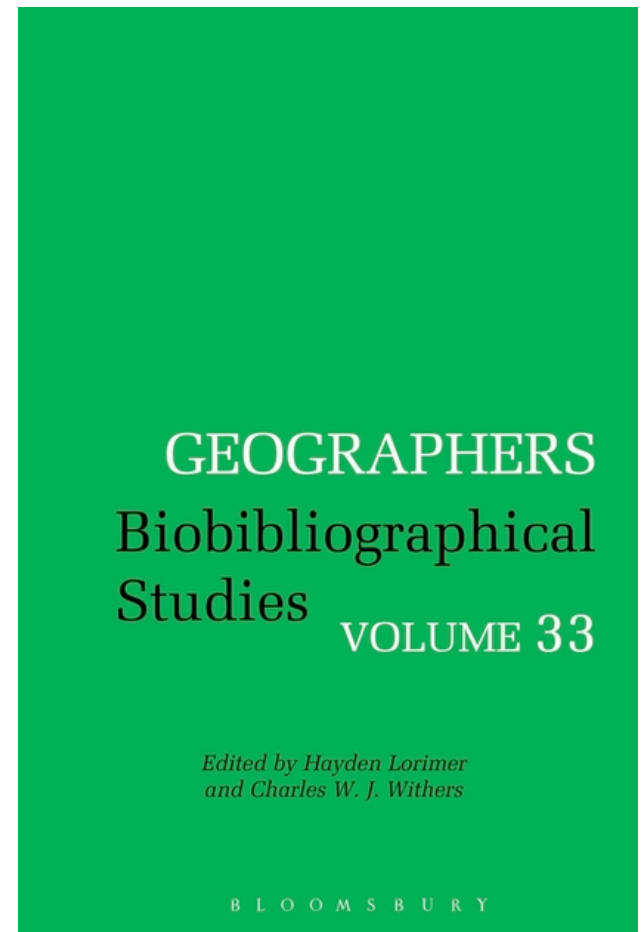
•Commission publications and website

a) Periodical Publications: The Commission annually edits a report of activities (which has replaced the former Commission Annual Newsletter) and the *Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies* serial collection (33 volumes, with approx. 510 essays, published from 1977 up to present).

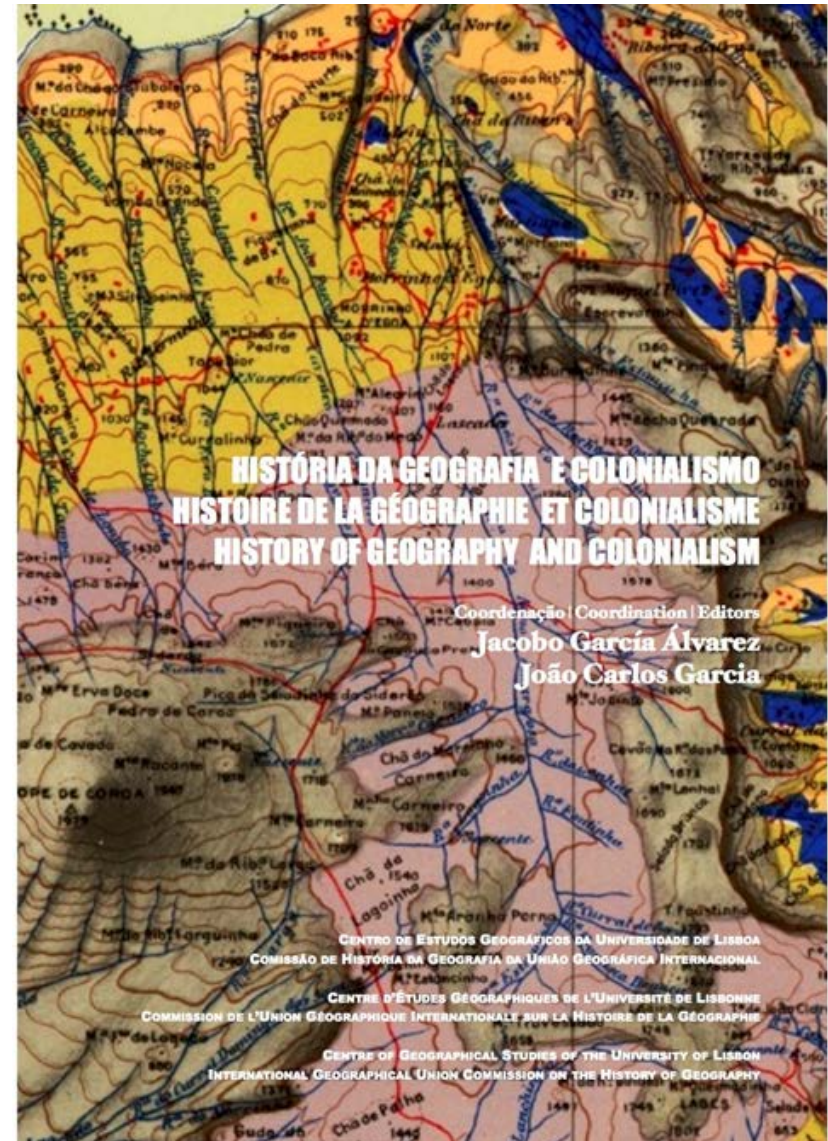
Edited by Hayden Lorimer and Charles W. J. Withers (co-editors since 2006) on behalf of the Commission on the History of Geography (published by Bloomsbury, in London)

Essays included in vol. 33 (October 2014):

6 essays on: Jean Tricart (1920-2003), André Guilcher (1913-1993), Giovanni Marinelli (1846-1900) and Olinto Marinelli (1874-1926), Mabel Mary Baker (1885-1961), Hull House Geography (1889-1963) and Sándor Radó (1899-1981).



b) Non serial publications: monographs, journal special issues, conference proceedings and others



c) Commission's web site:

<http://web.univ-pau.fr/RECHERCHE/UGIHG/>