



**International Geographical Union
Commission on Political Geography**
www.cas.sc.edu/geog/cpg
NEWSLETTER 14 (January 2012)
Edited by Anton Gosar

Commission on Political Geography/ Commission de géographie politique

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I - Chairman's Column

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Political Geography;

In the last Editorial I am writing as Chair of the Commission on Political Geography of the International Geographical Union I am enclosing the Report on Commission's Activity 2008 – 2012 in the format asked by the President of the International Geographical Union Professor Ron Abler:

REPORT OF COMMISSION ACTIVITIES 2008 - 2012

1. MEMBERSHIP

A. Steering Committee members

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maano@uct.ac.za; **Professor Paul REUBER**, Institute of Geography, University of Münster, Robert Koch Strasse 26, 48149 Münster, Germany, e-mail : p.reuber@uni-muenster.de; **Professor Stéphane ROSIÈRE**; Department of Geography, University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, UFR Lettres et Sciences humaines, 57, rue Pierre Taittinger; 51100 REIMS, France, email: stephane.rosiere@univ-reims.fr; **Professor Marek SOBCZYNSKI**, Department of Political Geography, University of Lodz, Collegium Geographicum, ul. Kopcynskiego 31, 90-142 Lodz, Poland, e-mail : marsob@geo.uni.lodz.pl; **Dr Takashi YAMAZAKI**, Department of Geography, Osaka City University, Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, 5588585, Osaka, Japan, e-mail : yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp.

Dr Takashi YAMAZAKI, Department of Geography, Osaka City University, Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, 5588585, Osaka, Japan, e-mail : yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp.

B. Commission members by country - membership in CPG (political geography) is - because of specifics of the sub-discipline - an estimate.

WORLD – 1628: /European Union (703): United Kingdom – 200, France – 100, Germany – 129, Poland – 17, Italy - 43, Slovenia – 39, Romania – 24, Ireland – 15, Austria – 15, Hungary – 15, Spain – 15, Cyprus – 15, Greece – 15, Sweden – 15, Netherlands – 15, Finland – 15, Belgium 15. **Other Europe (75):** Croatia – 10, Serbia – 5, Bosnia and Herzegovina – 5, Switzerland – 10, Russia – 45. **North America (620):** USA – 595, Canada – 25. **Latin Amerika (80):** Mexico – 10, Brazil – 25, Chile – 10, Venezuela – 10, Peru – 15, Bolivia – 10. **Africa (45):** Tunisia – 15, South Africa – 15, Ivory Coast – 5,

Nigeria - 10. **Asia (80):** Japan – 45, India – 10, Israel – 25. **Australia and Oceania (25):** Australia – 15, New Zealand 10/.

2. MEETINGS 2008 - 2012 (and beyond)

2008: Reims, France: April 2 – 4. *Space of Politics: Concepts and Scales* – 77 papers, 90 participants. **Lexington, KT:** July 21 – 24. *Engineering Earth: the Impacts of MegaEngineering* – 43 papers, 70 participants. **Tunis, Tunisia:** August 12 – 16. *Geopolitical Trends in the 21st Century Globalized World / Current Issues in Political Geography* (2 sessions at the IGU World Congress) – 14 papers, 25 participants. **Lodz, Poland:** September 17 – 19. *Historical Regions Divided by Borders* – 24 papers, 43 participants. **Oradea, Romania:** *Applied Political Geography in a New Contemporary European Borderland* - 19 papers, 60 participants. **Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia:** November 27 – 28. *Joint Management of Borderless Areas* - 32 papers - 92 participants.

2009: Pretoria, South Africa: September 1 – 3. *Market Environmentalism* (Session at the Conference of the Society of the S. African Geographers) – 8 papers, 90 participants. **Olomouc, Czech Republic:** August 23 – 28. *Congeo 9: New Spaces, Identities and Geographies in Integrating Europe.* **Manchester, UK:** August 25 – 28. *IBGC- 20 Years After....* **Legnica, Poland:** September 7 – 9. *Historical Regions of Europe* – 24 papers, 52 participants. **Trapani, Italy:** September 13 – 16. *Borderscapes II* – 28 papers, 50 participants. **Trieste, Italy:** October 1 – 2. *Adriatic Forum 2: Construction and Deconstruction of Nationalism and Regionalism: A Long Journey to Europe* – 28 papers, 48 participants.

2010: Newcastle, UK: January 8 – 9: *IBC - Borders and Identities* – 12 papers, 32 participants. **Beer Sheva, Israel:** July 6 – 10. *Borders, Territory and Conflict in a Globalizing World* (IGU Regional Conference pre-meeting) - **Tel Aviv, Israel:** July 12 – 16. *Bridging Diversity in A Globalizing World* (6 sessions at the IGU Regional Geographical Congress, 1 session co-organized with Mediterranean Renaissance Project) – 18 papers, 32 participants. **Glubczyce-Opava, Poland/Czech Republic:** September 22 – 24. *Historical Regions in the Structures of the European Union* – 24 papers, 40 participants. **Vienna, Austria:** September 23 – 25. *Adriatic Forum 3: Regional Development and Regionalization* – 28 papers, 48 participants. **Sapporo, Japan:** December 2 – 3. *De-Areanization of Border Studies: The Greater Eurasia and its Neighbors* - 18 papers, 50 participants. **Tokyo, Japan:** December 6 – 7. *Toward Networking with World's Border Studies: Japan's Borders in Global Perspective* – 12 papers, 40 participants.

2011: Montreal, Quebec: May 17 – 18. *Fences, Walls and Borders: State of Insecurity?* – 32 papers, 64 participants. **Geneve-Grenoble:** September 6 – 9. *BRIT XI - Border Regions in Transition XI: Mobile Borders* – 180 papers, 280 participants. **Zadar, Croatia:** September 14 – 15: *IGU Central Europe Working Group: Aspects of Central European Identity* – 18 papers, 39 participants. **Zadar, Croatia:** September 16 – 18. *Adriatic Forum 4: Geopolitical Issues of the Adriatic – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* - 23 papers, 50 participants. **Kiev-Crimea, Ukraine:** September 18 – 23. *Territorial Identity in the Contemporary World* – 14 papers, 35 participants. **Portorož-Portorose, Slovenia:** *(Re)Integration and Development Issues in Multicultural and Border Regions* – 32 papers, 74 participants. **Pecs, Hungary:** October 26 – 28. *Integration and Geopolitics in the Balkans and the Mediterranean.* **Santiago, Chile:** November, 14 – 18. *United and Integrated with the World* (6 sessions at the IGU Regional Geographical Congress) - 21 papers, 30 participants.

Questions addressed: The title of the conferences / meetings provide basic information on the topics discussed. Conferences have mainly focused on regional territorial developments and problems, in particular on borders, multi-cultural regions and the changing nation-state principles. Political geographers came to conclusion that the “...the Westphalian territorial ideals have made the territorial state the privileged unit for analyzing most phenomena ...” (Murphy, 1996) - while discouraging other views in regard to territorial identity of people, their interplay and organization. Political geographers have identified virtual territorial sovereignties in the form of Internet, monetary

flows and multifaceted aspects of globalization and have identified them under the term “mobile/shifting borders”. The migratory intensity of people in the contemporary world changes to large extent the traditional culture, nation, and nation-state territorial acceptance. The environmental sphere was accepted to the field and we’ve agreed to the concept of trans-state and cross-border discussion of the issue within political geography.

Beyond 2012 --- : 2012: Trieste, Italy: June 28 – 30. *Borderscapes III: Border Towns and Divided Cities* (with field work in the Italian-Slovenian-Croatian Alps-Adriatic border region and post-conference excursion to Bosnia and Herzegovina). **Frankfurt/Main, Germany:** August 24 – 25. *Spatialising the (Geo)Political : Political Geography and Critical Geopolitics* (a pre-conference to the IGU’s Geographical Congress in Cologne). **Cologne, Germany:** August 26 – 30. *Down to Earth - IGU’s Geographical Congress* (CPG is organizing sessions: 50 papers/posters registered within the field of Political Geography). **Fukuoka, Japan / Busan, Korea:** November 13 – 16. *BRIT XII – Border Regions in Transition: Borderland Voices – Shaping a New World Order*. ---- **2013: Eugene, Oregon:** June. *Political Geography of the Environment*. **Kyoto, Japan:** August 4 – 9. *Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth’s Future – IGU’s Regional Geographical Conference* (organizing a pre-conference and participating with sessions at the main conference).

3. Networking: The Commission on Political Geography cooperated successfully in preparing a session (“Borders in the Mediterranean”) with the Mediterranean Renaissance Project (MRP) at the International Geographical Union at the IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel. The commission was supportive of the activities of the MRP since its rejuvenation at the IGU Geographical Congress in Tunis, Tunisia in 2008. Members of the Steering Committee and the members are active participants in the works and meetings of IPSA – Political and Cultural Geography of the International Political Science Association, in particular within the Research Committee 15 (Political Geography. Co-operation was intensive in organizing meetings with the local national committees and is steady with geographic associations (AAG, BRIT, DGG, IBRU, ...) and their bodies working on the subject of political geography (sub-associations, institutes and specialty groups).

4. Publications: Due to its overwhelming quantity, it is impossible to cite all books printed in authorship of members of the Commission. Predominantly English and/or French language readings are suggested and/or reported on their publishing by authors in Newsletters 9 – 14 (Spring 2008 – Winter 2011-2012). **Newsletters: #9:** Spring/Printemps 2008; **#10:** December 2008; **#11:** Summer 2009; **#12:** Winter 2009 - 2010; **#13:** Winter/Hiver 2010 – 2011; **#14:** Winter/Hiver 2011 – 2012. **URL of the IGU CPG:** <http://www.cas.muohio.edu/igu-cpg/>.

5. Archival Contributions: Newsletters are available at the special Web of the Commission on Political Geography - <http://www.cas.muohio.edu/igu-cpg/>.

6. Continuation – The IGU Commission on Political Geography can demonstrate with confidence the successes it has achieved in relation to the mandate 2008 – 2012. In period of the most recent mandate, the Commission organized 26 meetings (four more than in the mandate of the commission 2004 – 2008) and printed 18 proceedings (five more than in 2004 – 2008). Commission’s members published close to 45 books on several topics within the 7 main subjects of the sub-profession: on disputes over territory, e.g. border disputes; on relationship between cultures and politics; on socio-demographic structures and migratory patterns; on the global economic interplay; on the geography

of political representation; on world's post-modern developments and threats; and within the wide array of critical geopolitics. The rapidly changing political frame of the world, the human impacts on environment and intercultural relations will be the main frame of future works of members of the commission. (Future) **Name: *Commission on Political Geography*; Statement:** The objectives of the Commission for next four years will be to continue the study of main theoretical issues of political geography as a fundamental geographical discipline (scale, place, post-modernity, etc.) and the relationships between the new geopolitical world order and other formal and informal levels of the political-territorial organization of society - including: post-modern geopolitics and political geography, the main notions and methods, common and particular trends, research methods in political geography, the dynamic of the relationships in the triade "identity – territory - boundaries" under the influence of globalization, new tendencies in nation building and the crisis of the Westphalian system, networking and the appearance of new global actors, cross-border cooperation as a condition of sustainable development (environmental, economic, social, cultural and political), re-visit to electoral geography, advancing on research of regional political geography (large urban agglomerations and world cities, coastal areas, regions of ethnic tensions and of international crisis, etc.), and initial studies on climatic changes and its impacts in the sphere of political geography. **New Steering Committee:** In place are also nominations for members of the Steering Committee who should replace members who have served in Commission's Steering Committees for two mandates (8 years). The IGU Commission on Political Geography (C 030) has started with related activities in 2010. The situation as of today (December 31, 2011) is the following:

	Members of the CPG Steering Committee 2004 – 2008	Members of the CPG Steering Committee 2008 – 2012	Proposals by National Committees / Eligible Members 2012 – 2016
Officers: Chair	Andre-Louis Sanguin, France	Anton Gosar, Slovenia	Elena dell'Agnese*, Italy elena.dellagnese@unimib.it
Officers: Vice-Chair	Anton Gosar, Slovenia	-	
Officers: Secretary	David Newman, Israel	David Newman, Israel	
Officers: Webmaster	Carl Dahlman, USA	Carl Dahlman, USA	
Member Asia I	Takashi Yamazaki, Japan	Takashi Yamazaki, Japan	Shinya Kitagawa, Japan shinyappo9@hotmail.com
Member Asia II	Sanjay Chaturvedi, India	Sanjay Chaturvedi, India	
Member Africa	Maano Ramutsindela, South Africa	Maano Ramutsindela, South Africa	Marc Ropivia, Gabon - Center for Geopolitical Studies, Omar Bongo University, Libreville (Gabon). mropivia@yahoo.fr .
Member N. America	Lynn Staeheli, USA	Alexander Murphy, USA	Alexander Murphy, USA abmurphy@uoregon.edu
Member S. America	-	-	Ina Elias De Castro, Brasil inacastro@uol.com.br
Member Europe I	Andre-Louis	Stephane Rossiere,	Stephane Rossiere, France

	Sanguin, France	France	stephanerosiere@orange.fr
Member Europe II	Elena dell'Agnese, Italy	Elena dell'Agnese, Italy	Elena dell'Agnese*, Italy elena.dellagnese@unimib.it
Member Europe III	Alexandru Ilies, Romania	Alexandru Ilies, Romania	Norbert Pap, Hungary pnorbert@gamma.ttk.pte.hu
Member Europe IV	Marek Sobczynski, Poland	Marek Sobczynski, Poland	Jan Wendt, Poland geojw@ug.edu.pl
Member Europe V	Paul Reuber, Germany	Paul Reuber, Germany	

*nominated as CPG IGU Chair 2012 – 2016

Plans: The commission needs to react to the rapidly changing political map of the world, to the new world order and focus on developments threatening environments, cultures and resources.

Importance of the IGU Commission on Political Geography. The study of political interactions on spatial macro and micro levels are in relation to demography, economy, culture, environment and other subjects of human living on earth a subject geography has to continue to research, as members of the commission would definitely analyze structures, present facts and give answers and propose solutions to problems humanity is facing.

After the very successful regional gathering of professionals and friends of geography in Santiago de Chile we can conclude that we, Political Geographers have to some extent contributed to the success of the conference. Here are the results of our Business Meeting held there:

MINUTES: *IGU Regional Meeting Santiago de Chile: 17. 11. 2011*

Present: Stan Brunn, Ivan Manuel Delgado, Anton Gosar, Vladimir Kolossov, Andre-Louis Sanguin, Delfina Trinca, Akihiro Iwashita.

Agenda:

1. *Report on Activity since Tel Aviv, Israel IGU Regional Meeting*
2. *Proposed Activity in 2012 and Beyond*
3. *IGU Directions (Santiago de Chile Regional Meeting: Board of Chairs)*
4. *Miscellaneous*

Ad. 1) (To be found in "Past Events", below).

Ad. 2) (To be found in "Future Meetings", below).

Ad 3) Activity Executive Board: *Dr. Vladimir Kolossov has in the name of the IGU President Dr. Ron Abler reported on activities and forwarded directions for the Cologne 2012 IGU conference. The acting IGU President and four Vice-presidents will not be eligible for the further mandate (2012 – 2016). Candidates for the named posts should contact own National Committees. In place are also nominations for members of the Steering Committee who should replace members who have served in Commission's Steering Committees for two mandates (8 years). The IGU Commission on Political Geography (C 030) has started with related activities in 2010.*

Commission's chairs have been encouraged to publish papers presented at the IGU Regional Meeting in Santiago. The task for the Chairs is to get the E-mail addresses of the presenters (from the

organizer) and to invite authors to deliver their reports. Due to the lack of finances and in regard to contemporary technologies Proceedings could be “published” via E-media, or on CD as well.

Ad 4) CPG IGU Membership Form. The quality of IGU CPG numerous activities have promoted Political geography beyond the frame of the strictly specialized professional community and the yearly published electronic Newsletter of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (<http://www.cas.muohio.edu/igu-cpg/IGU%20CPG%20Newsletter%2012.pdf>) . Several participants of international meetings have requested the president of commission to open a page on the IGU CPG Web-side where they would be able to announce their professional linkage and/or interest in the work of the IGU Commission on Political Geography. Members of the IGU CPG should in return become equal information on the work of the commission as steering commission members and could participate in discussions related to the information received. The proposal for the **Membership Form** might look like this (comments are encouraged).

Acknowledgement of Professional Interest:

COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY of the INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

Name (given/family)		
Date of Birth (dd/mm/year)		
Citizenship		
Address (home)		
Address (work)		
Address: E-mail		
Priority Interest in PG (name 2)		
Secondary Interest in PG (name 2)		
Suggestions/Comments		

Contemporary Political Geography – The View. The acting Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography has in 2010 started an initiative to set up a monograph on contemporary political geography as perceived by 1.) not acting presidents of the Commission 2.) by acting lead-editors of journals in political geography/geopolitics; 3.) by authors of contemporary textbooks on political geography. Chair’s initiative failed as from former CPG chairs just two (Sanguin, van der Wusten) have responded positively. The acting IGU vice-president encouraged the IGU CPG Chair to renew the initiative. It is not certain that the idea would enable the promotion of political geography at the IGU main conference in Cologne (2012), but even on a later date such an in-depth overview of the profession should be welcomed.

Vladimir Kolossov for President of the IGU. The National Committee of Russia has asked the IGU acting vice-president to forward his nomination for the IGU president for the next IGU officer’s mandate (2012 – 2016). Members of the Steering Committee and in political geography interested

Santiago audience supports this nomination. The acting Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography will be nominated by the Slovenian National Committee for the post of the Vice-President.

In Santiago de Chile, 18. 11. 2011

This concludes my last IGU CPG Chairman's column. Greetings from Koper-Capodistria in wintery Slovenia;
Anton

II - Future Events

Trieste, Italy: 28 - 30 June 2012. BORDERSCAPES III. The third edition of the international conference on Borderscapes will have a special focus on border towns and divided cities. For this reason, it will be held in the city of Trieste, straddling the long contested boundary between Italy and the former Yugoslavia. As part of the conference itself, a field trip will bring participants to the border town(s) of Gorizia, Italy and Nova Gorica, Slovenia. A post-conference excursion (July 1 - 5) will be organised to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Plitvice Lakes – Jajce – Sarajevo – Mostar – Medjugorje – Makarska – Zadar). The organisers encourage papers/posters/visual products in the following fields: *Urban Borderscapes of Fluxes and Communication, Divided Cities, Borders and Gender, Global Political Frontiers, Borderscapes as Symbolic Landscapes*. The conference is supported by the IGU Commission on Political Geography, by the Dept. of Humanities, University of Trieste, by the Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca, and by the research network Etnicos. Call for papers: please, submit an abstract of no more than 250 words to: elena.dellagnese@unimib.it and zillis@units.it Deadline for abstracts proposals: **29th of February 2012**. Acceptance of abstracts will be notified a.s.a.p. in the following weeks. Registration forms must be received by **30th of April 2012**. Deadline for paper submission: **15th of June 2012**. Full papers will be made available to participants on the conference website. Three-day registration: 150 euros (full rate), 50 euros (postgraduate and unwaged). The post-conference 5 day excursion fee is around € 450.-. The provisional program:

BORDERSCAPES III: POSTCONFERENCE EXCURSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA; July 1 – July 5, 2012

Departures	Route		
Sun., 01. 07. dep. 7:30	Trieste – Ljubljana	Sightseeing (walking – 1 hour)	Presentation (Department of Geography, University of Ljubljana)
Dep. 11:00	Ljubljana – Spa Catez	Lunch break	Lunch menu (optional; additional costs)
Dep. 14:00	Spa Catez – Zagreb	Sightseeing (walking – 1 hour)	High Season Traffic; Jams possible (alternative routes possible; change of plan possible) – (Department of Geography, University of Zagreb)
Dep. 16:30 (Arr. 19:30)	Zagreb - National Park Plitvička Jezera (Plitvice Lakes)	Dinner, Night, Breakfast	Hotel Jezero, or similar at Lakes (HP)
Mon., 02.07. dep. 8:00	NP Plitvice Lakes	Sightseeing (walking – 2 hours)	Guided Walking Tour – Lower Lakes
dep.11:00	Plitvička jezera – Bihač (vicinity)	Lunch break	Lunch menu (optional; additional costs)
dep.13:30	Bihač – Jajce	Sightseeing (basic)	Refreshing Stop
dep.17:30 (Arr. 20:30)	Jajce – Travnik – Zenica - Sarajevo	Dinner, Night, Breakfast	Hotel Holiday Inn (preferably), or similar in Center (HP)
Tue., 03. 07. Dep. 9:00	Sarajevo	Sightseeing (walking – 3 hours)	Guided Walking Tour – Downtown
12:00	Sarajevo	Free-Time	(possible activity with EU representative, and/or university)

20:00	Sarajevo	Dinner	Hotel Holiday Inn (preferably), or similar in Center (HP)	
Wed., 04. 07. Dep. 8:00	Sarajevo – Jablanica	refreshing stop		
Dep. 10:00	Jablanica - Mostar	Sightseeing (walking – 1 hour)	Guided Walking Tour; other activity possible	
13:00	Mostar	Lunch break	Lunch menu (optional; additional costs)	
Dep. 15:00	Mostar - Medjugorje	Free-Time / Refreshing stop		
18:00 (Arr. 20:00)	Medjugorje – Čapljina* or Metković	Dinner, Night, Breakfast	Hotel *** or similar in Town(HP)	*
Thu., 05.07.* Dep. 9:00	Čapljina or Metković* – Zadar	Sightseeing (walking – 1 hour)	Travel on Highway (inland); - in Zadar Guided Walking Tour; Department of Geography, University of Zadar	
13:00	Zadar	Lunch break	Lunch menu (optional; additional costs)	
Dep. 14:30	Zadar – Velebit – Lika – Bosiljevo	Highway, refreshing stop	Travel on Highway (inland); Panoramic stop	
Dep. 18:00	Bosiljevo – Rijeka - Fiume	Sightseeing (basic)	Department of Geography, University of Primorska)	
Dep. 19:30 (Arr. 22:00)	Rijeka – Fiume - Trieste	END of TOUR		

*Interested individuals can decide to continue towards Dubrovnik and Montenegro ... (in individual arrangements)

Frankfurt/Main, Germany: 24 - 25 August 2012. »SPATIALISING THE (GEO)POLITICAL: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS«. The conference will provide a forum for exchange for political geographers prior to the IGC 2012 meeting in Cologne with the goal of moving forward current conceptual, methodological and empirical research agendas in Political Geography and Critical Geopolitics. We encourage the submission of abstracts (max. 300 words) for paper presentation, organized sessions and round-table discussions. To ensure high academic standards at the conference, submitted abstracts will be reviewed by an international committee before acceptance. Information in brief: Submission deadline: 01 May 2012, Registration fee (before 15 May 2012): €50 (students €30); late registration (after 15 May 2012): €75 (€40)! For abstract submission and further information, please see <http://humangeographie.de/pg-cg-precon>. The conference is organized by the Commission on Political Geography (CPG) of the IGU and the German 'Arbeitskreis Politische Geographie'. It will be hosted by the Department of Human Geography of the Goethe-University Frankfurt. The pre-conference is sponsored by the journal Political Geography.

Discussion will form around two major topics: A: *Integration and Disintegration of the Nation State*. The role of the nation state and the territorial order of the world's political map have significantly changed over the past two decades. In the face of ongoing economic globalisation the geopolitical influences of transnational corporations and networks of financial speculation have become ever more palpable. In the political realm, networked players such as terrorist networks, regional warlords and new social movements are growing in importance. Simultaneously, ongoing inter-state conflicts, debates on homeland security, the biopolitics of citizenship, hardening borders and reinvigorated state institutions in the face of financial and fiscal crisis in the EU and the US show that the nation state is far from disintegrating into a space of flows. The conference seeks to invite contributions that discuss these challenging developments from different theoretical perspectives as well as through different case studies. B: *Critical Geopolitics 2012*. Four years after the Critical Geopolitics 2008 conference at Durham University, we seek to invite contributions addressing the state of Critical Geopolitics and its evolution as an interdisciplinary research approach across the social sciences. Particular attention shall be paid to Critical Geopolitics' interdisciplinarity in both conceptual and methodological terms as means of exploring inter-dependencies

between the global and the local. How do geopolitical conditions affect local settings and the daily lives of people and how do localized social relations and seemingly mundane practices develop wider implications? The conference seeks to investigate both how the geopolitical is enacted in local settings and how specific personal, social and institutional arrangements shape the geopolitical. Furthermore, it seeks to address how these developments are dependent on, and influenced by, different underlying spatial arrangements and scale interdependencies.

Cologne, Germany: August 26 – 30, 2012. IGU MAIN CONFERENCE: SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY. Due to the thematic specialisation of the pre-conference in Frankfurt, the Commission on Political Geography's three sessions scheduled for the IGC in Cologne are deliberately kept open. The aim is to provide a platform for submitting and presenting a large variety of papers as well as to discuss projects from across the broad thematic spectrum that is political geography. After the abstracts have been received and reviewed, the presentations are grouped by their thematic focus and allocated to one of the three sessions. **Deadline for abstract submission: January 8, 2011.** To submit an abstract for any session at the IGC 2012 it is necessary to create a personal account. Registering your participation for the congress, submitting an abstracts, booking a place on a field trips or making a payment is only possible online via the IGC 2012 congress management system. Conference-Homepage: <https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php>. Abstracts: https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder_id=83&ses_id=583917cde9706e3e65daf05b0e4b506e

Chelm, Poland – Lutsk, Ukraine: September 12 - 14 THE EASTERN DIMENSION OF THE UNITED EUROPE. The Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies, University of Lodz is organising the 13th 'Lodz' International Political Geography Conference that will be held on September 12–14, 2012. The subject of the conference is: *The Eastern Dimension of the United Europe*. The conference organizers intend to discuss the following issues: 1. Eastern politics of the European Union; 2. Relation between EU member-countries and East European Region; 3. Historical dimension of the East-West relations in Europe; 4. National and religious diversification and EU-EE relations; 5. East European countries' politics toward the process of the European integration; 6. Economical conditions of the East-West relations in Europe; 7. Global dimension of the European integration processes; 8. Inter-European relation from the point of view of the other states of the World. Traditionally, the theme of the conference is connected with the place where it is held. This time it will be Chelm in Eastern Poland and Lutsk in Volhynia (Ukraine). As the organisers wish to print a pre-conference publication (including conference programme, guide to excursions, and abstracts of all papers) the participants are kindly requested to send one-page abstracts of their contributions in English till **30th of May, 2012**. Contacts: University of Lodz, Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies, Head of Department: prof. Marek Sobczykński, 90-142 Łódź, ul. Kopcińskiego 31, Poland Tel. (48)(42) 635 45 90, tel./fax (48)(42) 635 45 92, e-mail: marsob@geo.uni.lodz.pl .

Fukuoka, Japan & Busan, Korea: November 13 – 16, 2012. BRIT XII – BORDER REGIONS IN TRANSITION: BORDERLAND VOICES - SHAPING A NEW WORLD ORDER. Against the

background of the current “border studies renaissance” fashioned in North/South America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa; Eurasia and East Asia have long been a vacuum in the “international” border studies community. Hokkaido University’s Slavic Research Center, regarded as one of the most active institutions on Eurasian area studies in the world, has decided to invite established but fragmented individual researchers working on Eurasia and East Asia border-related topics to create a research network for border studies. We have also organized a united forum and developed collective works in the theory-conscious framework of border studies and have coordinated the establishment of Japan International Border Studies Network (JIBSN) with local/central administrative practitioners. Border studies itself has yet to fully mature and needs a solid foundation to integrate fragmented regional facts. The urgent task at hand is to find and identify a theoretical tool so as to compare various approaches and expertise throughout the regions. Without this process, border studies, though endowed with rich and suggestive materials, will not be able to make a fruitful contribution as an interdisciplinary and multi-vectored field of research. In order to engage more people in this new network and to advance it into a worldwide one, we are now preparing for a borderland symposium that will take place in November 2012 under the auspices of the prestigious Border Regions in Transition (BRIT). Day one and day two of the symposium will be held in the city of Fukuoka, Japan, followed by a field trip to Tsushima, a border island, on day three. On day four the symposium will conclude in Busan, Korea. The city of Fukuoka and Kyushu University have pledged their full support. Also, November is an ideal month for viewing sumo, Japanese traditional wrestling, in the city. Dongseo University in Busan is pleased to host the last part of this symposium. With local support, our program will be realized an epoch-making event, especially in cooperation with distinguished Eurasian border researchers and with institutions from Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, China and Russia. With the cooperation of the border cities of Fukuoka and Busan, the first East Asian BRIT will truly be a historic event.

The BRIT XII (Fukuoka-Busan 2012) Organizing Committee invites all academic researchers and practitioners working on borderlands policy and border studies to participate in the BRIT XII Conference, a multi-disciplinary/area studies scientific meeting dedicated to the study of borders in all parts of the world. The conference will take place in Fukuoka, Japan and Busan, Korea, November 13-16, 2012. These locations provide an ideal setting for further understanding the realities of cooperation and conflict over Northeast Asia’s maritime and land borders. The conference will include an opportunity to participate in a special tour of beautiful Tsushima Island which lies halfway between Fukuoka and Busan. While papers on all topics and geographical areas related to border studies are welcome, the theme of BRIT XII is **Borderland Voices: Shaping a New World Order**. Papers addressing this theme will examine how those living in borderlands have been affected by the “bordering” processes of the state and central authority; how the voices of borderland communities can challenge the prevailing nation-state order; and the strategies and initiatives that people in the borderlands have devised in order to seize opportunities and overcome the difficulties associated with life on the border. Views from the borderlands give us fresh insights into the dynamic relationship between state and society; center and periphery; security and insecurity; politics and identity; territory and belonging. The theme of BRIT XII comes as a timely reminder that it is border communities (often marginalized, overlooked and powerless) who are most sharply affected by the global shifts represented by the terms “de-

bordering” and “re-bordering.” However, these communities are not passive actors but part of a two-way process where those living in the borderlands are forming new kinds of connections and spaces. For borderland communities the power, violence and connectivity of the border are part of the very fabric of daily life. The border really matters to those living on it and border studies can uniquely engage with those metaphorically and geographically on the margins. It is a scholarly endeavor that has a humanitarian significance beyond the boundaries of academia. BRIT XII offers opportunities to use multiple lenses (from local to global) as well as cross-disciplinary approaches to refocus on the border in new and innovative ways. As part of this innovation, BRIT XII seeks to promote the development and advancement of theoretical and methodological approaches to border studies. Therefore, panels on theory and methods will be particularly welcome. Among other topics, we are also interested in accepting papers and panels on the following:

- Local initiatives and borderland interest groups
- Maritime border studies: conflict and cooperation
- Comparative studies on land and sea boundary issues
- Re-framing border discourses
- Non-state dialogue across boundaries
- Borders and the reconfiguration of geopolitics in Northeast Asia
- “Mobile” and “hyper” borders
- Natural environment and shifting borders
- Borders in a world of supra-state organizations
- Borders as a global-local nexus
- Spaces beyond the state
- Borderland identities
- Locating and defining contemporary borderlands
- Borders, migration and diasporas
- Gender divisions on and across borders

In order to advance collaboration between universities and policy makers, both academic researchers and practitioners working on border issues are warmly invited to attend. With the aim of promoting BRIT as a forum for exchanging ideas and overcoming disciplinary boundaries, individual papers will be particularly encouraged this year. These papers will be carefully considered by the BRIT XII Committee and organized into stimulating and engaging panels. Panel proposals are also acceptable though it is unlikely that panels with presenters exclusively from one country will be accepted. Panel organizers are encouraged to approach scholars from different disciplines and countries before submitting their proposal. Panel proposals must include all abstracts of the presenters involved. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to reallocate presenters in order to encourage the transgression of disciplinary boundaries. Outstanding papers will be invited to publish in journals such as *Geopolitics*, *Journal of Borderland Studies*, *Eurasia Border Review* and the proceedings of the conference. **The final deadline for proposals is April 10, 2012** (For a limited number of Ph.D. candidates whose papers are judged by the Organizing Committee to best address the theme of this year’s conference, local accommodation in Fukuoka and Busan will be provided in the conference hotel. For those Ph.D. candidates who wish to be considered for accommodation, the deadline is **March 30, 2012**). The panel or individual proposal must include the title of the presentation, the name of the presenter(s), affiliation, e-mail address

of the author(s), contact number and audiovisual needs. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words. Proposals should be submitted to: brit2012@borderstudies.jp. After being notified of your proposal's acceptance, you should register on our website: <http://www.borderstudies.jp/brit2012/top.html> . *If you have further questions, please contact:* Akihiro Iwashita, Coordinator of BRIT XII (Fukuoka-Busan 2012) iwasi@slav.hokudai.ac.jp; Paul Richardson, Special Assistant to the Coordinator of BRIT XII - paulrichardson@borderstudies.jp.

Eugene, Oregon: June, 2013. POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE ENVIRONMENT. According to the decisions made at the CPG IGU Tel Aviv Business Meeting, the 2013 annual conference of the Commission on Political Geography will be held in Eugene, Oregon and should discuss the relation between environment and politics. Further info (when available) at CPG IGU Steering Committee member Alexander Murphy, University of Oregon address (amurphy@uoregon.edu)

KYOTO, JAPAN; August 4 – 9, 2013. IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE: TRADITIONAL WISDOM AND MODERN KNOWLEDGE FOR THE EARTH'S FUTURE

The National Committee of Japan and The Science Council of Japan are organizing the next Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union in Kyoto, Japan (August 4 – 9, 2013) within premises of the Kyoto International Conference Center (<http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/hgeog/igu2013/igu2013.html>). The major direction of the conference will be related to the heavy environmental burden humans have imposed on Earth. According to the title of the conference we should return to traditional wisdom and implement modern knowledge for the Earth's future. CPG IGU Steering Committee member Takashi Yamazaki (yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp) is also a member of the Organizing Committee and will act on our behalf. We are planning to arrange a pre/post conference in accordance to directions of the Kyoto organizing committee.

III - Past Events

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL: “*Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World*”. At the Tel Aviv, Israel IGU Regional Meeting conference “*Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World*” (July, 2010)the CPG (C30) organized 4 sessions and 16. Our Steering Committee member Dr. David Newman organized a well attended pre-conference “*Border, Territory and Conflict in a Globalizing World*” (close to 70 participants and 21 presentations) at the Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva. The guided excursion from Beer Sheva to Tel Aviv, through Palestinian Territories and two tough Israeli control posts, was an enlightenment for the international group of political geographers.

SAPPORO, JAPAN: “*Reshaping Japan's Border Studies*”. The Slavic Research Center of the Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan and its dynamic director Akihiro Iwashita, invited selected members of the CPG Steering Committee to participate at the International symposium “*Reshaping Japan's Border Studies*” (December 3 - 5, 2010). Some aspects of the symposium were later (Dec. 6, 2010) presented at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Tokyo.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – GRENOBLE, FRANCE: BRIT XI - Border Regions in Transition XI: Mobile Borders. The XIth conference of the BRIT (Border Regions In Transition) network was held in Geneva and in Grenoble from 6 to 9 September 2011. This major event, organized every two years on a different continent, on both sides of a border, took place for the first time in France and in Switzerland. It was attended by more than 280 participants, including researchers, professionals and students. The BRIT is an international and interdisciplinary scientific network which regularly holds meetings attended by the world's leading specialists on border and geopolitical issues, with the particular feature of gathering analysts and practitioners around a border which they cross together, a condition for very fruitful debates. The aim of this conference, co-chaired by Anne Laure Amilhat Szary (Joseph Fourier University- PACTE/Institut Universitaire de France) and Frédéric Giraut (Geneva University), was to assess the concept of "**mobile borders**", a provocative expression questioning the status of these spaces which globalization has transformed. Borders are no longer linear and the control functions attributed to these arbitrary lines are now often dissociated from the physical boundary between the two countries. When border functions diffuse far from the boundary line, one can question the remaining meaning of the conventional line, and when displaced elsewhere, can these still be qualified as border functions?

In addition to the plenary addresses, more than 180 communications, grouped in some forty sessions, were programmed for the attendees. This year, Africa was in the place of honour, and Michel Foucher, expert with the African Union together with the South-African scholar *Maano Ramuntsindela*, concluded the conference which guest of honour was Mrs. Saskia Sassen, sociology professor at Columbia University, USA. The convenors were also pleased to discover the presentation-performance given by the artist Ariane Littman (www.ariane-littman.com/) and very interested in the conference given by Olivier Clochard, president of the Migreurop NGO network. The scientific results of the conference are wide-ranging. It was an opportunity to analyze the many meanings of the concept of "borders" by showing that borders undergo constant processes of opening ("debordering") and closing ("rebordering"), which make them very diverse in their forms and in their manifestations. Their spatial inscription, increasingly difficult to define, produces more fluid, open or fuzzy borders.

Beyond the renewal of knowledge on the state of world borders, the BRIT attendees have various explored post-modern modalities of contemporary "rebordering", thus evidencing: 1. the selectivity of borders themselves, as that their functions; 2. the emergence of new borders, created by private or public agencies; 3. the importance of boarded borders, with the existence or non-existence of rights attributed to migrants who become holders of franchises or exclusions; 4. the growing weight of control and subjection technologies.

ZADAR, CROATIA: The Adriatic Forum IV "Geopolitical Issues of the Adriatic – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow". The Adriatic Forum IV "*Geopolitical Issues of the Adriatic – Yesterday,*

Today, Tomorrow” was organized by the University of Zadar (September 16 – 18, 2011) . As much as 41 participants from 16 countries participated actively at this event and 32 papers were presented. The main conclusion was that the Adriatic region is continuously undergoing different political, social and economic changes, so the role of the geographers is to analyze and discuss those changes and present the research results, of course, in cooperation with scientists from other, related, scientific disciplines. The last day of the conference included a bus excursion to Zadar hinterland and Pag Island.

KIEV – CRIMEA, UKRAINE: “Territorial Identity in the Contemporary World”. The Department of Geography at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences organized the CPG IGU’s central annual conference on *“Territorial Identity in the Contemporary World”* in Ukraine (Kiev and Crimea, September 18 – 23, 2011). Interesting discussion evolved around the Westphalian principles in the contemporary changing world of nation-states (and other type of states).

PORTOROŽ-PORTOROSE, SLOVENIA: “(Re)Integration and Development Issues in Multicultural and Border Regions”. The Institute for Geographical Studies and the Institute for Mediterranean Humanities and Social Studies of the Science and Research Centre of the University of Primorska (Koper/Capodistria, Slovenia) have organized the international conference on *“(Re)Integration and Development Issues in Multicultural and Border Regions”* in Portorož/Portorose, Slovenia (September 22 - 24, 2011). The aim of the Conference was to give an assessment of past developments and conflict resolutions, an analysis of current situations and problems concerning spatial and social cross-border and inter-cultural integration/disintegration, and an evaluation of the future trends and opportunities for co-operation and development within a broader European and global context.

PECS, HUNGARY: “Integration and Geopolitics in the Balkans and in the Mediterranean”. The Department of Political Geography and the Regional Development Institute at the University of Pécs, Hungary has organized an international conference on the topic of *“Integration and Geopolitics in the Balkans and in the Mediterranean”* (October 26 – 28, 2011). The conference proceedings will be published and selected papers published in a Hungarian journal *“Mediterrán Világ”*.

SANTIAGO, CHILE: UGI 2011 International Geographical Regional Conference. The IGU Regional Conference has been organized at the Escuela Militar in Santiago de Chile from November 14 - 18, 2011. Prof. Andre-Louis Sanguin acted as coordinator of our CPG IGU commission. The CPG IGU has not organized any pre- or post-conferences, but has traditionally organized the Steering Committee members’ discussion and has participated at chair meetings. IGU provided travel grants for those interested in attending the conference. At the conference we’ve had organized 7 sessions with 25 papers and the following presenters: Andre-Louis Sanguin, Jose Edgardo Gomez Jr., Anton Gosar; Helio Evangelista, Vinicius Juwer, Michelle Switzer,IVALDO Lima; Shlomo Hasson, Juliana Silva, Vladimir

Kolossov, Johannes Tsheola; Christopher Len, Alexander Bukh, Akihiro Iwashita, Mikhail Alexseev; Flavia Velasquez-Forte, Estrada Juan Manuel Delgado, Carolina Pinto, Mauricio Chaves, Stuart Aitken, Silva Thiago Martins; Delfina Trinca Figuera, Thomas Havlicek, Jeferson Resende. This is the official record regarding the number of presenters at sessions of the Commission on Political Geography at Regional meetings of the IGU.

IV - Members' Projects, Publishing, Travels, Other

The IGU CPG Steering Committee Member Maano Ramuntsindela reports on publishing two books and four journal articles. BOOKS: Ramuntsindela, M., Spierenburg, M. and Wels, H. 2011 *Sponsoring Nature: Environmental Philanthropy for Conservation*. London: Earthscan/Routledge (ISBN 978 184 407 9049). Ramuntsindela, M. 2007 *Transfrontier Conservation in Africa: At the Confluence of Capital, Politics and Nature*. Wallingford and Boston MA: CABI (ISBN 978 184593 221; ARTICLES: Ramuntsindela, M. 2010 Africa's borders in colonial and postcolonial contexts. *Hagar* 9(2): 13-29. Ramuntsindela, M., Yamazaki, T., Gibson, C. and Mamadouh, V., 2010 Interventions on the meanings of the Obama presidency for US relations with global regions. *Political Geography* 29(1): 5-16. Ramuntsindela, M. 2009 The interconnections between environmental philanthropy and business: insights from the Southern African Nature Foundation. *Transformation* 70: 54-69. Ramuntsindela, M. 2008 The contours of political transformation and conservation areas in southern Africa. *Geography Compass* 2(2): 359-374.

The IGU CPG Steering Committee Member Stephane Rosiere reports on publishing one book, two book chapters and nine journal articles. BOOKS: Rosière S., (with the collaboration of Pr. Y. Richard for chapter 6), 2011, *Géographie des conflits armés et des violences politiques* [Geography of armed conflicts and political violences]. Paris: Ellipses, 220 p. BOOK CHAPTERS: Rosière S., 2009, *L'espace politique : concepts et échelles* [Space of Politics : concepts and scales]. In: Rosière, Cox, Dahlman and Vachiani-Marcuzzo (eds.), *Penser l'espace politique* [Thinking the Space of Politics]. Paris: Ellipses, pp.17-33. Rosière S. (Ed.), 2008, *Dictionnaire de l'espace politique. Concepts en géographie politique et géopolitique*, [The Dictionary of Political Space]. Paris: éditions Armand Colin, collection « Dictionnaire », 318 p. (reprint in 2010). JOURNAL ARTICLES: ROSIERE S., 2011, « La place des firmes dans la tradition et l'actualité géopolitiques » [The place of firms in geopolitical tradition and issues]. *Revue géographique de l'Est*, vol. 50, n°1-2 | 2010, Firmes, géopolitique et territoires - vol. 1. URL : <http://rge.revues.org/2942>; ROSIERE S., 2011, « Teichopolitics: the politics of border closure », *Si Somos Americanos, Revista de estudios Transfronterizos*, Journal of transborder studies, vol. XI, n°1, Regiones fronterizas en transicion, pp.151-163 (from my presentation in BRIT Xth conférence, 2009) ; ROSIERE S., 2011, « Une géopolitique des classes ? » [A social classes geopolitics ?]. *L'Espace Politique*, n°12, 2010-3, mis en ligne le 11 février 2011. [on line] URL : <http://espacepolitique.revues.org/index1770.html>; ROSIERE S., 2010, « La fragmentation de l'espace étatique mondial » [The splitting up of world political space]. *L'Espace Politique*, n°11, 2010/2, mis en ligne le 16 novembre 2010. [on line]URL : <http://espacepolitique.revues.org/index1608.html>; ROSIERE S., 2008, « Le territoire contesté – entre violence et médiation » [Contested territories — between violence and meditation]. *Historiens et Géographes*, Numéro spécial Congrès international de l'UGI, co-édité par le CNFG, juin, pp.173-181 ; ROSIERE S. & JONES Reece, 2012, "Teichopolitics: re-considering globalization through the role of walls and fences" *Geopolitics* (Routledge). Accepted in March 2011. Christian Vandermotten & S. Rosière, 2010, « Les violences faites

aux peuples dans les logiques du système-monde » [Violence Towards People in the World-System's Logics] *Espace, Populations, Sociétés*, n°2008-3, consacré aux violences politiques, article introductif mis en ligne le 01 décembre 2010, [on line]<http://eps.revues.org/index3471.html>; Florine Ballif & S. Rosière, 2009, « Le défi des teichopolitiques. Analyser la fermeture contemporaine des territoires » [The challenge of 'teichopolitics': Analysing the contemporary closure of territories]. *L'Espace Géographique*, vol. 38, n°3/2009, pp.193-206 ; Juliet Fall & S. Rosière, 2008, "On the limits of dialogue between Francophone and Anglophone political geography". *Political Geography*, 27, n°7, September, pp.713-716

Maria Paola Pagnini efforts to publish papers presented at the Adriatic Forum II in Trieste (October 1 – 2, 2009) have ended successfully. Since January 1, 2012 the proceedings are available as *Adriatic Forum: Construction And Deconstruction Of Nationalism And Regionalism - A Long Journey To Europe*. Academie Europeenne de Geopolitique, Montpellier, 2011, 220 p.

The Newsletter has been edited by Dr. Anton GOSAR, Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si), with assistance of Dr. Carl T. DAHLMAN, the Webmaster of the IGU on Political Geography (dahlmac@muohio.edu) . Publishing: January 31, 2012.