

International Geographical Union  
Commission on Geographical Education  
2016-2020



Newsletter #3 – July 2017

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Welcome to Newsletter #3!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



This year’s main commission event, the Commission Symposium will be held in Lisbon, Portugal during 26-28 October 2017. The central symposium theme is ‘*Integrating Knowledge and Understanding in Geography Education*’. Under this central theme, more than 50 oral presentations, 4 workshops and the IGAS - International Geography Assessment Study panel will be presented. The symposium will also include two field trips. The first one will be a trip along Lisbon’s river front, during which participants will have the chance to understand the process of urban development and regeneration that took place in the area since 1998. The second one will be along the Western coast of Lisbon, Cascais and

Sintra. The field trip will be an opportunity to visit some of the most impressive coastal landscape near Lisbon. See more information <https://sites.google.com/view/cgelisbonsymposium2017>

We are very excited to officially announce the Commission profile on Facebook. We will be sharing a variety of useful content to keep our friends and visitors on geography education and the latest news, upcoming events and more! Please check out our page, and be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us! Visit here <https://www.facebook.com/igucge/>

We are also providing an update for IRGEE, the commission’s flagship journal with a focus on how to raise the impact of IRGEE, and how to use journal articles in classroom teaching, etc.

Clare Brooks, Chew Hung Chang and Jongwon Lee

## Commission on Geographical Education News

### IGU-CGE now on Facebook

The Commission on Geographical Education has now a Facebook page. This is to increase the visibility of IGU-CGE. By using Facebook we are hoping to reach out to geographers all over the world. As a start, the page will be used to post relevant news from IGU-CGE about conferences, activities and journals. We are planning to investigate the possibilities of the social media platform. You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/iguatge/>

### IGU-CGE Treasurer's report

As Commission Treasurer, Michael Solem manages a checking account held at Wells Fargo Bank in Washington, DC. On July 1, 2017, the account balance was USD 5,004.21. Since the last newsletter, there were two transactions: 1) A USD 400 payment for printing the Charter for distribution at the 2017 AAG Annual Meeting in Boston, and 2) a \$496.47 payment to Henk Trimp for work on the Commission's website.

### Research in Geography Education

A reminder also for any new research in geography education to be added to our web-based template to collect and collate information on Geography Education MA, MEd, EDD and PhD theses around the world. Creating this collection will greatly enhance our knowledge about geographical and environmental education. The on-line spreadsheet can then be made available for researchers through the IGU-CGE website. We hope that all geography educators with the help of the regional representatives would be able to contribute information on the existing Geography Education theses.

(Geography Education Collection: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nrbVzveqZWDWWdouJfnKAK-ctHdDkWOdt7xxt34mee8/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nrbVzveqZWDWWdouJfnKAK-ctHdDkWOdt7xxt34mee8/viewform?usp=send_form))

### Dr. Joseph Stoltman has won two prestigious awards from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)



Commission Advisory Member Joseph Stoltman has won two prestigious awards, recognizing him as being among the best and brightest in geography education. The National Council for Geographic Education has awarded Dr. Joseph Stoltman both the Distinguished Mentor Award and the Higher Education Distinguished Teaching Award. The Distinguished Mentor Award is presented to college and university professors whose guidance and influence is significant for students becoming geographers or classroom teachers. The Higher Education Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes and celebrates excellence in higher education geography teaching and leadership. Awards will be presented at a special ceremony during the 2017 National Conference on Geography Education July 27-30 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## IGU CGE Conference News

### CGE Lisbon Symposium, 26-28 October 2017

The CGE 2017 Symposium will be held in Lisbon. The symposium will be an excellent opportunity to reflect upon the challenges that geography education faces in many parts of the worlds. The symposium will be designed to promote a reflexive debate around some of the following questions:

- How does school geography cope with challenges of the information society?
- What strategies have been adopted as regards the development of geography curriculum?
- What can be currently considered as meaningful and valid geographic knowledge?
- How does school geography approach issues concerning the mobility of manpower or refugees?

Symposium Website <https://sites.google.com/view/cgelisbonsymposium2017>

### Belgrade 2-8 August 2017 International Geography Olympiad



The 14TH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, under the auspices of the International Geographical Union Olympiad Task Force.

The Olympiad will run from 2 to 8 August, 2017. Web site:

<http://igeobelgrade.edu.rs/>

### **Quebec City 6-10 August 2018 International Geographical Union Regional Conference**

International Geographical Union Regional Conference will be held in Quebec City Canada from August 6 to 10, 2018. The conference theme, "Appreciating Difference, or Apprécier la différence," is a Quebec expression that invites participants to consider the world as a blank canvas that we must first decide how to depict before putting down images and words. A wide variety of field excursions combining human and physical geography will provide participants with the opportunity to apprécier la différence that makes Quebec, a UNESCO World Heritage City, a place of exceptional geographic interest. Web site: <http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/>

### **Other conferences**

#### **FOSS4G Africa 2017, South Africa, June-July 2017**

FOSS4G and The Southern African Geography Teachers Association (SAGTA) will be hosting an international conference in South Africa, in June-July 2017 on the best practice of GIS and using Geospatial Science to teach Geography. Please see the call for papers attached - or interested academics/Geography Teachers can visit: <http://foss4g-africa.org>

#### **The 1st UPI International Geography Seminar (UPI IGEOS 2017) will be held on August 8, 2017, in Bandung, Indonesia.**

UPI IGEOS 2017 aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers, and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Geography, Geography Education, and Geosciences. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Geography, Geography Education, and Geosciences  
For more information, please visit <http://igeos.conference.upi.edu/>

#### **EUGEO Congress 2017, Brussels, 4-6 September**

Each two years, EUGEO, the association of the European geographical societies, organised a big meeting of European geographers and of geographers working on Europe. The next meeting will be held on 4-5-6 September 2017 at Brussels and will be organized by the Royal Belgian Geographical Society, in co-operation with the KNAG and the French National Committee of Geography. The first circular, with a call for the organisation of sessions, is now on line on <https://eugeo2017.sciencesconf.org>.

**13th National Meeting of Geography Teaching Practice (ENPEG): GEOGRAPHY KNOWLEDGE: TRAINING AND PRACTICES IN BASIC EDUCATION. September 10 to 14, 2017, in the city of Belo Horizonte - Minas Gerais, Brazil.** (13º Encontro Nacional de Prática de Ensino de Geografia (ENPEG): CONHECIMENTOS DA GEOGRAFIA: PERCURSOS DE FORMAÇÃO DOCENTE E PRÁTICAS NA EDUCAÇÃO BÁSICA. 10 a 14 de setembro de 2017, na cidade de Belo Horizonte - Minas Gerais, Brasil). <http://www.coltec.ufmg.br/enpeg/chamada.html>

#### **6th National Geography and Environment Conference (PKGAS2017), Malaysia, 26-27 September**

The 6th National Geography and Environment Conference will be held on 26 & 27th September 2017 at Sultan Idris Education University, Malaysia is organized by the Department of Geography and Environment, Faculty of Human Sciences in collaboration with the Association of Geography, Sultan Idris Education University. The theme of the conference is "Geography, Environment and Sustainability" and sub-themes are: Education of Geography & Environment; Geographical Information System (GIS); Remote Sensing; Climate Change; Climatology; Biodiversity; Land Use Change; Environmental Quality; Population; Urbanization; Tourism and Heritage; and other applicable areas. Website, Registration and Submission: <https://pkgasupsi2017.wordpress.com/>

#### **XXXVIII National Congress and XXIII International Congress of Geography: BORDERS IN MOVEMENT: THINKING GEOGRAPHY IN THE SOUTH OF THE WORLD. MOBILITIES AND SOCIO-SPACE TRANSFORMATIONS. Temuco, Region of La Araucanía. Tuesday 17 to Friday October 20, 2017.**

Organized by Chilean Society of Geographic Sciences and the University of La Frontera. (XXXVIII Congreso Nacional y XXIII Internacional de Geografía: FRONTERAS EN MOVIMIENTO: PENSANDO LA GEOGRAFÍA EN EL SUR DEL MUNDO. MOVILIDADES Y TRANSFORMACIONES SOCIO-ESPACIALES. Temuco, Región de La Araucanía Martes 17 a viernes 20

de octubre de 2017. Organizado por Sociedad Chilena de Ciencias Geográficas y la Universidad de La Frontera). [http://sociedadchilenadecienciasgeograficas.cl/2014/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CONVOCATORIA\\_2017.pdf](http://sociedadchilenadecienciasgeograficas.cl/2014/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CONVOCATORIA_2017.pdf)

### **XI IGU Commission Seminar on 'Environment and Sustainable Livelihood' to be held at Guwahati, Assam, India from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.**

The 29<sup>th</sup> North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS) Biennial Conference cum XI IGU Commission Seminar is going to be organized at B. Borooah College, Guwahati, India. The major commissions collaborating in the event are Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, Commission on Geo-heritage and Commission on Geography of Governance. The focal them of the seminar is Environment and Sustainable Livelihood.

<http://www.iguguwahati2018.org>

### **Primary Geography Conference; Charney Manor Oxfordshire February 23rd-25th 2018.**

Programme to include contributions from primary school teachers, primary education students, tutors working in primary teacher education, researchers in geography education. Offers of papers from the IGU CGE community most welcome. Day/residential attendance. Further details from Dr Melanie Norman: [mel@melanienorman.com](mailto:mel@melanienorman.com)

### **EUROGEO Conference, Cologne Germany, 15-16 March 2018**

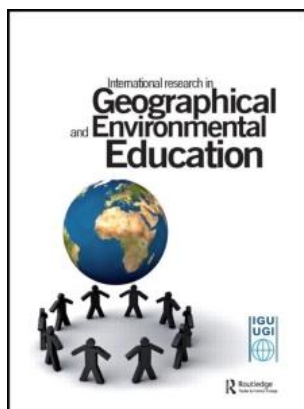
EUROGEO 2018 will aim to address cross-cutting issues such as How does geographical education respond to needs of society and the world around us? How do new technologies and open access to data help to solve today and future issues? How should education respond to the ever-increasing importance of geographic information? What is geography's contribution to making citizens? Abstracts for papers, workshops, posters or organized sessions are invited on any aspect of geography. Deadline: 19 January 2018. Conference website <http://www.eurogeography.eu>

### **The Geographical Association's 2018 Annual Conference, Sheffield, UK.**

The Geographical Association's 2018 Annual Conference in Sheffield (5–7 April 2018) will include a series of sessions focusing on and reporting recent research into geographical education. If you are interested in presenting a paper visit **the GA website** to find out more.

## **Further announcements on Geographical Education**

### **International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education (IRGEE) Update**



Help us to make IRGEE even more prestigious!

Please use IRGEE articles in your teaching. Consider your weekly teaching objectives and then search on the IRGEE Journal webpage for articles related to your weekly objectives. We invite you to provide your students with IRGEE journal article references for use in class or in their assessment. To help us increase the IRGEE metrics we kindly ask that you do not provide your students an actual copy of an article – either electronically or hard copy, but give them just the reference, and encourage them to download articles for personal use.

If your students are like mine, they will be reluctant to actually read some articles. I've found that if you use some class time to work with just a small aspect of the article (a graph for example) the students will happily engage with the article. Using research articles can help your students to achieve learning outcomes that entail complex skills and understandings that can be difficult to teach and are often absent in text books. Research articles, like those in IRGEE, illuminate aspects of teaching and learning that text books ignore like questioning our pedagogies, comparing ideas and hypotheses, and explanations of observations. Engaging students in critical evaluation of primary articles can be a powerful pedagogical strategy to teach thinking skills. When chosen well, an article can also add to the subject matter objectives of your course.

IRGEE has been indexed in Thomson Reuters Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) since 2016. This index includes academic journals of importance in emerging scientific fields and the inclusion of IRGEE in ESCI provides greater discoverability which leads to measurable citations and more transparency in the selection process. This is an

important step towards having IRGEE indexed on other key indices such as the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), for example. In order to expand the discoverability and outreach of IRGEE on social media space, a Facebook page has been set up since June 2017.

As the flagship journal for the CGE, this is an additional way to raise the impact of IRGEE and the scholarly works of geography educators in an increasingly technologically connected world, through what scholars are recognising as altmetrics. If you visit the journal website, you will notice that each article published will have the number of views, citations and altmetrics listed on the metrics tab. In addition to traditional means of measuring impact, altmetrics tend to have a snowballing effect that will inform readers on the latest articles published in IRGEE. To encourage viewership, articles from current and past issues from IRGEE are featured at the beginning of each week, based on a theme each month. IRGEE has planned a series of themes throughout the year. The topic for Geography and Powerful Knowledge was chosen as Alaric Maude has a newly published article on the debates about powerful knowledge in IRGEE in June and the special issue on climate change education was just published in July. IRGEE's Facebook page also features news from the CGE Facebook page as a way to increase the outreach of the Commission's work. So, please do select and use IRGEE articles in your teaching. Encourage your colleagues and students to download articles of interest, and find out more about articles published in IRGEE through the IRGEE journal webpage and the journal Facebook page. The URLs are listed here for your reference.

IRGEE Website: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgee20/current>

IRGEE Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IRGEECGE/>

Co-Editors of the IRGEE

### **NCRGE awards new grants for transformative research**

The National Center for Research in Geography Education (NCRGE), a research consortium headquartered at the American Association of Geographers (AAG) and Texas State University, has approved awards for three new projects under its Transformative Research grant program. NCRGE funds networking activities to strengthen geography education research processes and promote the growth of sustainable, and potentially transformative, lines of research. The latest grants will support the formation of interdisciplinary research groups in the areas of geography pedagogical content knowledge, geospatial technology education, and college-to-career transitions. Full details are available on the NCRGE website.

### **NCRGE launches the Powerful Geography project**

One of the major challenges U.S. schools presently face in providing K-12 geography instruction is the pronounced shortage of teachers with geography backgrounds. Inspired by recent work on GeoCapabilities, the National Center for Research in Geography Education has initiated a new research-based approach to geography teacher education that will expand opportunities for students to experience powerful geographic knowledge in schools. Visit [www.powerfulgeography.org](http://www.powerfulgeography.org) to learn more about the project and how to get involved.

### **EarthXplorers**

The LT Media Lab at the University of Minnesota has released EarthXplorers (<https://earthxplorers.com/>), a free online learning environment that invites students to tackle geographical challenges centered on sites of historical significance. EarthXplorers scaffolds students and teachers alike in ArcGIS while advancing spatial thinking skills and the use of GIS for inquiry and problem solving. For an overview, see <https://vimeo.com/205284323>.

### **Two innovative geospatial projects funded by the US National Science Foundation**

The following two videos provide interesting background and highlight the research results. The connections between success in science and mathematics and spatial thinking are strong. This is yet another reason to teach geography!

#### **1) Cognitive and Neural Benefits of Teaching Spatial Thinking in the High School Science Classroom**

Description: This behavioral and neuroimaging study investigates the effects of spatial education embedded in a science class (Geospatial Semester; GSS) on the core spatial abilities and STEM-relevant spatial thinking of high school students. Preliminary results reveal that compared to students participating in other advanced science courses, students in GSS demonstrated greater improvements in cognitive indicators of spatial ability as well as the increased recruitment of brain regions involved in spatial thinking.

See <http://stemforall2017.videohall.com/presentations/1041>

#### **2) Designing Interdisciplinary STEM Curriculum for Impact**

Description: One of the objectives of this study is to empower students in grades 9-12 with the methods and tools needed to address challenges and make meaningful contributions to their communities, while also inspiring their awareness and interest in STEM careers. Students use inquiry and place-based learning to explore topics they recommend, such as crime, community needs, parks & community gardens, and housing.

See <http://stemforall2017.videohall.com/presentations/929>

### **Work begins on an international geography assessment**

An international effort is underway to design and develop a geography assessment based on the successful model used by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) for the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Major collaborating organizations include the International Geographical Union Commission on Geographical Education (IGU-CGE) and the IEA/TIMSS. The initial funding for this project is being provided by the Geography Education National Implementation Project and the U.S. National Center for Research in Geography Education. Additional information is available [here](#).

## **Publications**

Jones, M. (Ed.) (2017). *The Handbook of Secondary Geography*. Sheffield, UK: GA.

Available now, this is the core reference text for all geography teachers. This handbook provides a rich source of advice and guidance on all aspects of geography teaching in secondary schools in the UK. It has been written for heads of department leading the subject in their school and for all teachers of geography from those beginning their career to those with more experience. [View content details](#)

[http://geography.org.uk/shop/shop\\_detail.asp?ID=838&section=11](http://geography.org.uk/shop/shop_detail.asp?ID=838&section=11)

### **Some Recent Publications of possible interest to geography educators**

(As ever our thanks go to Professor Simon Catling for assembling such an impressive list!)

#### **Geographical and environmental education**

Pickering, S. (Ed.) (2017). *Teaching Outdoors Creatively*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Rogers, D. (2017). *100 Ideas for Secondary Teachers: Outstanding Geography Lessons*. London: Bloomsbury.

Waite, S. (Ed.) (2017) *Children Learning Outside the Classroom*. (2nd edition). London: Sage.

#### **Children's geographies**

Abebe, T. & Waters, J. (Eds.) (2017). *Geographies of Children and Young People 10: Labouring and Learning*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Evans, R. & Holt, L. (Eds.) (2017). *Geographies of Children and Young People 2: Methodological Approaches*. Dordrecht: Springer.

#### **Geography, environment and social science**

Carcia, E. & Vale, B. (2017). *Unravelling Sustainability and resilience in the Built Environment*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Goudie, A. & Viles, H. (2016). *Geomorphology in the Anthropocene*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hamilton, C. (2017). *Defiant Earth: The Fate of Humans in the Anthropocene*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Hughes, J.D. (2016). *What is Environmental History?* (2nd edition). Cambridge: Polity Press.

Kitchen, R., Lauriault, T. & Wilson, M. (Eds.) (2017). *Understanding Spatial Media*. London: Sage.

Klein, N. (2017) *No Is Not Enough – Defeating the New Shock Politics*. London: Allan Lane.

Morton, T. (2016). *Dark Ecology: For a Logic of Future Coexistence*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Oldfield, J. & Shaw, D. (2016). *The Development of Russian Environmental Thought: Scientific and geographical perspectives on the natural environment*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Oppermann, S. & Iovino, S. (Eds.) (2017). *Environmental Humanities: Voices from the Anthropocene*. London: Rowman & Littlefield.

Robertson, M. (2017). *Sustainability: Principles and Practice*. (2nd edition). Abingdon: Routledge/Earthscan.

Roller, D. (2017). *Ancient Geography: The discovery of the World in classical Greece and Rome*. New York: I.B.Taurus.

#### **Cartography and maps**

Withers, C. (2017). *Zero Degrees: Geographies of the Prime Meridian*. Cambridge, Mas: Harvard University Press.



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