

**International Geographical Union
Commission on Geographical Education
2012-2016**



Newsletter #5 April 2014

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Welcome to Newsletter #5!

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the fifth IGU-CGE Newsletter of the current, 2012-16, Commission on Geographical Education! This newsletter features news from the Commission and items of wider interest to the geography education community. We are keen to grow our community and so please feel free to forward the newsletter to colleagues, or to forward their contact details to us so that we can add them to our circulation list.

In addition, we are soon venturing into the world of social networking, so look out for our new LinkedIn Group – details to be circulated shortly.

We continue to be grateful to our wide network of Regional Contacts. We now have over 50 volunteers but the world is a big place and we are keen to widen our net. We would like to encourage anyone who is interested in acting as a Regional Contact to let us know.

We look forward to see many of you at the IGU conference in Krakow in August 2014.

Clare Brooks, John Lidstone and Joop van der Schee

COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION NEWS

At the end of February 2014 a small international group met to discuss the follow up to the 2013 Rome Declaration on Geographical Education. IGU-CGE co-chair Joop van der Schee and EUGEO president Henk Ottens organised a special meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands, to discuss further cooperation between IGU, EUGEO and EUROGEO.

Participants were IGU president Vladimir Kolossov, EUROGEO president Karl Donert, EUGEO board member Gerry O'Reilly, EUGEO general secretary Massimiliano Tabusi, Alexander Sebestov, who is IGU-CGE liaison officer for the 2015 IGU Regional Conference, and Clare Brooks (Secretary to this Commission). The results will be presented at the Malta Conference in May 2014 and at the IGU conference in Krakow in August 2014. The main results consists of 1) a draft version of a strategic plan for geography education worldwide; 2) the intention to exchange an overview of standard requirements for geography education from different countries; 3) to start a joint IGU/CGE-EUGEO-EUROGEO project for local geography in schools for 10-15 year olds, and 4) to address the external stakeholders for geography education more systematically. We are delighted to have these three different organizations working together and we hope that other organizations for geography education will join us in our efforts to improve geography education availability for everyone.

Co-Chair John Lidstone was recently travelling in India and took the opportunity to visit Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in New Delhi. Back in the 1980s and 90s, the Commission had strong links with colleagues in India through the work of Prof Savita Sinha from NCERT who served on the Steering Group of the CGE and who contributed to many of the major CGE projects at that time. Now retired, Savita introduced John to A/Prof Aparna Pandey who is currently working on the Indian National Curriculum and who is particularly interested in developing learning indicators for the secondary stage of geographical education. She would welcome correspondence with colleagues elsewhere in the world. Aparna tells some wonderful stories about teaching constructivist geography to classes of 120 with few if any resources. Any colleagues interested in corresponding with her on the topics of national curriculum development and learning indicators are invited to email aparnancert@gmail.com.

BHU has the largest geography department in Asia and Prof Ravi Singh was able to provide some very useful background on the current state of geography in Indian universities and the job prospects of geography graduates, many of whom will seek employment as geography teachers. Ravi holds significant professional leadership roles in India including those of Vice-President of the Indian Society of Spatial Science, and Secretary of The Indian Institute of Geographers, and we hope that he will be able to assist us to renew and enhance our links with both Indian tertiary geographers and geographical educators. Ravi's email address is: Ravi S. Singh ravisingh.geog@gmail.com.

We welcome these two colleagues to the Commission and hope that we can learn much from their on-the-ground experience in India. We also look forward to welcoming other colleagues, particularly from parts of the world where the CGE is less well represented, to Krakow in August.

IGU CGE CONFERENCE NEWS

Our next meeting will be in: **2014 Krakow, Poland (as part of the IGU Conference) from 17-22 August 2014**, see <http://www.igu2014.org>. Early registration fee payment deadline was 2 April 2014 and the deadline for abstracts for papers and posters was **15 January 2014**. More than hundred colleagues have sent papers or posters for one of our sessions on geography education. We are very grateful to our Polish colleague Anita Bokwa and her colleagues who are doing a wonderful job in organising a professional and exciting programme.

The main theme of the conference is '**Changes, Challenges, Responsibility**'.

The Commission on Geographical Education has planned four streams:

- 1) Changes, challenges, responsibility in the school geography curriculum;
- 2) Changing practices in geography education: meeting the challenges of the future;
- 3) Research findings and challenges in geography education; and
- 4) IGU, EUGEO and EUROGEO, a challenging network of geographers in education.

The meeting in Krakow starts on **Sunday August 18** with a business meeting of the Commission and an IGU opening ceremony in the afternoon and ends on **Friday August 22**.

Future conferences include:

- **2015 Moscow**, Russia (as part of the IGU Conference) Dates have now been set for the Moscow Regional Conference for 17-22 August 2015. Our thanks go to Alexander Sebentsov who has agreed to act as the liaison for our Commission.
- **2016 Beijing**, China (as part of the IGU Conference)
- **2017 Lisbon**, Portugal

In addition the IGU-CGE UK Committee are planning a **London Symposium in April 2015**. Further details will be announced on the <http://www.igu-cge.org/> website.

The IGU Olympiad

The 2014 **International Geography Olympiad** is being held in Kraków, Poland, from 12 to 18 August, hosted by the Polish Geographical Society and the Pedagogical University of Kraków. Thirty-seven countries have applied to take part, including two new to our Olympiad family, Montenegro and Serbia. More information at www.igeo2014.pl. The venue of the Olympiad will be the campus of the Pedagogical University of Kraków - in the old capital city of Poland. The Olympiad is an excellent opportunity to showcase the geographical skills and understandings of a country's geography students, as well as a reward for student excellence. The participants will have the opportunity to visit some of the most interesting and attractive places in Southern Poland as well as immerse themselves in the fascinating history and culture of Kraków and its surroundings. The website www.geoolympiad.org contains information on iGeo's Statutes and the component tests, as well as information on the forthcoming and previous iGeos. Examples of past questions can be found via the webpage on the relevant iGeo.

IGU-CGE Treasurer's report

As Commission Treasurer, Michael Solem manages a checking account held at Wells Fargo Bank in Washington, D.C. As of March 1, 2014 there is a total of USD 4,773.18 available in the Commission's account.

Other conference announcements and news

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Geographical Association Annual Conference and Exhibition, University of Surrey, Monday 14-Wednesday 16 April 2014. More than 700 delegates from all over the world regularly take part in a range of lectures, workshops, field visits and social events and find out about the latest ideas, resources and support in primary and secondary geography. The GA's 2014 Annual Conference in Guildford will also include a series of sessions focusing on and reporting recent research into geographical education. Further details can be found at www.geography.org.uk/conference

2014 AAG Annual Meeting: Tampa, Florida

The 2014 AAG Annual Meeting will be held in Tampa, Florida from April 8-12. <http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting>. AAG is attended by geographers, GIS specialists, environmental scientists, and other leaders for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. The meeting will feature over 5,000 presentations, posters, workshops, and field trips by leading scholars, experts, and researchers.

Geography education highlights include:

As part of the preparation for the book he is editing with Joop and Ali, Osvaldo Muniz will coordinate a Panel Session on Geospatial Technologies and Geography Education in a Changing World. The AAG Organizing Committee has also selected this Panel as part of the special themes for the Conference: 'Jobs and Careers.'

In addition, there will be a GeoCapabilities Workshop Session led by David Lambert, Michael Solem and Sirpa Tani, followed by a Panel session and a Paper session.

For more information visit www.aag.org/geocapabilities

EUROGEO 2014 Conference

The Geography Department within the Faculty of Arts of the University of Malta is proud to host the 2014 EUROGEO Conference to be held at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus between the 16th and 17th May 2014. The Conference entitled *The Power of Geography and the Role of Spatial Information* will highlight the increasing relevance and importance of geography in today's society.

More information on <http://www.eurogeography.eu/>

International Congress of the Turkish Association of Geographers, Muğla, Turkey, June 4-6, 2014

The Turkish Association of Geographers organized its first annual meeting at Fatih University in Istanbul in June 2012 and attracted more than 350 registered attendees. With this number it has been the largest geographical congress ever held in Turkey. Upon the request from the members, the Association decided to add an international dimension to the congress and the next congress will be organized by Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University with an international perspective and participation. Although the congress has the theme '**Environment and Life in the Mediterranean**' the congress is open to all fields of geography and we are delighted to invite colleagues from all diverse interests in geography. The congress will be hosted by Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University between **June 4-6, 2014** in the excellent congress centre on the campus of the university in Muğla. We expect to see geographers and other social scientists who work on Turkey but never had a chance to meet Turkish colleagues. All the details are available at the congress website <http://tcdyk.org/?&changelang=EN>. You can also learn more about the new Turkish Association of Geographers from its website <http://www.cd.org.tr/?&changelang=EN>

5th Jubilee International Conference on Cartography and GIS

Will be held 15-21 June 2014 (Riviera, Bulgaria). Further details can be found at <http://iccgis2014.cartography-gis.com/Home.html>

NCGE Annual Conference

We welcome all to the National Conference on Geography Education in **Memphis, TN, USA**, July 31- August 3, 2014. We will continue to accept [proposals](#) for presentations until **April 10, 2014**. Please note, early [registration rates](#) will expire on **May 30, 2014**.

GI Forum

July 1-4, 2014: The University of Salzburg hosts again the **GI_Forum (including an educational track on "Learning with Geoinformation")** which provides a platform for dialogue among GIScientists, critical thinkers and educationalists in an ongoing effort to support the creation of an informed GISociety.

More information and registration: <http://gi-forum.org/>

International Conference on Outdoor Learning: July 2014

Our German members would like to announce an international conference on outdoor learning, which is combining modern teaching/learning methods with an innovative conference format: it will be a wandering conference, moving from city to mountain and to Berlin. For further details see <http://paradigmaps.geo.uni-halle.de/ICOLE/>

CONFERENCE REPORTS

The **GTE (Geography Teacher Educators) conference took place in Winchester, UK in January 2014**. This is an annual event where geography tutors from initial teacher education (ITE) courses all over the UK gather to exchange ideas, discuss each other's research and debate current issues within geography education. This year the conference feature a number of primary and secondary delegates from both the UK and wider afield including Holland, Ireland and Germany. For further details of presentations see: <http://geography.org.uk/gtip/gteconferences/>

Associate Professor Edress Sultan Saleh, Minia University Egypt presented a paper titled: **The attitudes of preparatory stage students towards cultural diversity in Egyptian society after the revolution of January 25, 2011**.

To The 3rd Regional Conference on Educational Leadership and Management, Institute Aminuddin Baki (National Institute of Educational Management and Leadership), Ministry of Education, Malaysia, 19 - 21 November 2013.

The paper discussed the factors that affected on the attitudes of students, including geographical education curriculum, that show the diverse environments in Egypt and its natural and human characteristics.

<http://www.iabu.moe.gov.my/rcelam/index.php/1st-rcelam/83-main-list/info/cat-acc/88-acc-arab>

Further announcements on Geographical Education

International Year of Global Understanding: Update on the UNESCO Resolution.

The UNESCO resolution concerning the International Year of Global Understanding 2016 was adopted by UNESCO's APX Commission at its 15th plenary meeting on 19 November 2013. However, this final resolution is much shorter than the version that was submitted to the UNESCO Executive Board in the first place, and it is also shorter than the version that was subsequently forwarded by the UNESCO Executive Board to the UNESCO General Conference. But of course for the Action Plan of the IYGU the version accepted by the EXB will be the frame of reference.

After (finally) obtaining the official version of the UNESCO General Conference's resolution we are preparing for the submission of this resolution to the UN in April 2014. This should ensure that the resolution makes it onto the agenda of the next UN General Assembly session starting in September 2014.

Symposium on learning progressions research held in Washington, D.C.

The AAG and Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education's GeoProgressions project convened a symposium of geography, math and science education researchers to consider approaches to conducting research on geography learning progressions. The symposium, held from February 6-8, 2014 in Washington, D.C., resulted in a plan for developing a handbook on methods and principles of doing learning progressions research related to related to Essential Element 1 (The World in Spatial Terms) in *Geography for Life, National Geography Standards 2nd edition*. More information is available at www.aag.org/geoprogressions

The Indian Institute of Geographical Studies, announces National Geography Youth Summit – 2014, 9-11 June 2014, Bangalore. Theme: Envisioning Geography Education for 21st Century India.

Audiences: class 9 to PhD students, school teachers, young professional geographers.

Posters, papers, geography teaching + tools workshops, panel discussions, and GeoArts cultural evening – children performing geography themes in song and dance. <http://tiigs.org/ngys/>

Learning to understand the earth – Application of modern satellite imagery for earth observation in geography classes (Space4Geography)

The German Aerospace Center-funded project aims at developing a web-based learning environment. Students can process and interpret optical and radar satellite imagery to approach topics like land use change or renewable energies. The learning environment allows individualized learning paths, adapting the module's content and difficulty to the student's capabilities. For more information:

Prof. Dr. Alexander Siegmund (University of Education Heidelberg, Germany):

siegmund@ph-heidelberg.de

Young People on the Global Stage

After a trying negotiation and preparation process the launch event of the "Young People on the Global Stage"-project has finally taken place in Berlin on February 19th 2014. The overall objective of the project is to enable young people and teachers to increase their understanding of international development issues specifically those related to hunger, poverty and sustainable development. This includes fostering an understanding of how these issues impact on developing countries and which international efforts are made to address them. Ultimately, participants should feel empowered to act for a fairer world. The project will span over a three year period with each year having its own focus: global cities, global citizens, global stage. Covering global city issues the German launch event addressed three topics in different workshops: "Exclusion and self-assertion of young people at Bahnhof Zoo (Berlin)", "Perception of poverty in Africa" and "Participation in the context of the programme 'Social City' - between emancipation and administration". The outcomes of the workshops will be shared with the European partners.

The "Young People on the Global Stage"-project is funded by the EU. European partners are Tide~ Global Learning (Birmingham – project leader), FERE-CECA (Madrid) and Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.

EUROGEO Announcements and links:

EUROGEO conference - final Call for abstracts <http://www.eurogeo.nl/malta2014/>
See the EUROGEO Newsletters <http://www.eurogeo.nl/newsletter/>, subscribe at <http://tinyurl.com/lsmacno>
Call for elections to the EUROGEO Presidium <http://www.eurogeo.nl/annual-meeting/>
Latest issue of European Journal of Geography published at <http://www.eurogeographyjournal.eu>
Colleagues may wish to subscribe to the geography blog Geo Pickmeup <http://geo-pickmeup.com>
Join more than 3000 geographers following EUROGEO on LinkedIn <http://tinyurl.com/linkedin-EUROGEO>
Find the latest geographical jobs on LinkedIn at <http://tinyurl.com/linkedin-EUROGEO>

NCGE has a new address!

National Council for Geographic Education
1101 14th Street, NW
Suite 350
Washington, DC 20005-5647
www.ncge.org (Same as always)

National Center for Research in Geography Education established in the U.S.

The National Center for Research in Geography Education (NCRGE) is a research consortium committed to the advancement of basic and applied research in geography education at all levels. NCRGE's mission is to coordinate, support, and build capacity for research on key research topics such as those identified in the recent Road Map Project led by National Geographic. Michael Solem (AAG) and Richard Boehm (Texas State University) are serving as Co-Directors. For additional information about NCRGE, visit www.ncrge.org or contact the directors at msolem@aag.org and rb03@txstate.edu

Interested in mapping your field data? Joseph Kerski, Geographer and Education Manager at Esri, has written an article in ArcUser that explains some easy ways to do just that: <http://www.esri.com/esri-news/arcuser/winter-2014/mapping-your-field-data>

Joseph Kerski created a series of 6 videos designed to help you and your students **create story maps** that integrate live web maps with multimedia here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-iy0DcFnuQ&list=PLiC1i3ejK5vsOn6cQS_m4dk5YAtoEBFq0

Joseph Kerski is teaching an **online web mapping and spatial thinking mastery course** for educators beginning 21 March: <http://sloanconsortium.org/institute/mastery-series/spatial-thinking> Find out how to analyze temporal and spatial data with easy to use and powerful web mapping tools, with foundations in spatial thinking, networking, and hands-on exercises.

Maps and the Geospatial Revolution MOOC - Penn State University. Learn how advances in geospatial technology and analytical methods have changed how we do everything, and discover how to make maps and analyze geographic patterns using the latest tools. <https://www.coursera.org/course/maps>

An Environmental Initiative Project in Iran

Project Name: Eco-friendly house

General Goals are building and developing a sample of perma-culture farm in combination with a protected area where we put this motto into action that soil, water, plants, insects and animals (including 2-3 families of human beings) live in harmony together. More details can be found at <http://www.permaculture.ir/consilience-review-2/>

Publications

The following publication, in German, features a new outdoor learning module for our teacher training students at the University of Zurich. It's described in:

Hesske, Stefan, Fuhrimann, Daniel, Maisch, Max & Vettiger, Barbara (2014). Einblick in die Lehrdiplom-Ausbildung in Geographie (SII) – Außerschulische Lernaktivitäten im Geopark Sardona. In: Brovelli, D., Fuchs, K., Rempfler, A. &

Sommer Haller, B. (Hg.) (2014). Auersschulische Lernorte – Impulse aus der Praxis. Tagungsband zur 3. Tagung Auersschulische Lernorte der PH Luzern vom 10. November 2012. Berlin: LIT.

Reznickova, D. et. al. (2013): Pupils’ Skills in Biology, Geography and Chemistry Education. P3K, Prague, pp. 288.

This monograph outlines and enframes the concept and the outputs of a four-year research in didactics for the subjects of biology, geography, and. It focuses on the creation of the comprehensive system of skills which students should master at individual levels and education (based on the model of inquiry based learning) and on the verification of practicability of this proposal in science education in Czechia. English Summary of the monograph is available [here](#).

Authors of general and geographical texts are: Dana eznickova, Martin Hanus, Toma Matejcek and Miroslav Marada.

(Special thanks to Simon Catling for compiling the following list of recent and relevant publications – and also many congratulations on his conferment of Emeritus Professor!)

Geographies

- Cloke, P., Crang, P. & Goodwin, M. (eds.) (2014, 3rd edition) *Introducing Human Geographies*. London: Routledge.
- Cox, K. (2014) *Making Human Geography*. New York: The Guildford Press.
- Dorling, D. (2014) *All that is Solid*. London: Allen Lane.
- Drake, J., Kontar, Y. & Rife, G. (eds.) (2014) *New Trends in Earth-Science Outreach and Engagement: The Nature of Communication*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- Hopkins, P., Kong, L. & Olson, E. (2013) *Religion and Place: Landscape, Politics and Piety*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- Horton, J & Kraftl, P (2014) *Cultural Geographies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge.
- Loukaki, A. (2014) *The Geographical Unconscious*. Farnham: Ashgate.

Geographies, Literature and Illustration

- Antoniou, A., Klanten, R., Ehmann, S, & Hellige, H. (2013) *A Map of the World According to Illustrators and Storytellers*. Berlin: Gestalten.
- Eco, U. (2013) *The Book of Legendary Lands*. London: MacLehose Press.
- Hawkins, H. (2014) *For Creative Geographies: Geography, Visual Arts and the Making of Worlds*. London: Routledge.

Geographies of Education

- Haberer, J. (2012) *Sustainable Development Research: An analysis of determining factors for responsible environmental behaviour in regard to ‘Solar Powered Schools for Hyderabad’*. Bremen: Europaeischer Hochschulverlag Vgmbri.

Geographical and environmental education

- Bonnett, M. (ed.) (2014) *Moral Education and Environmental Concern*. London: Routledge.
- Burke, C. & Jones, K. (eds.) (2014) *Education, Childhood and Anarchism: Talking Colin Ward*. London: Routledge.
- Fraser, N. (2014) *The Environmental Toolkit for Teachers*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Marsh, C. & Hart, C. (eds.) (2011) *Teaching the Social Sciences and Humanities in an Australian Curriculum*. Frenchs Forest: Pearson Australia.
- Parsons, S. & Foley, M. (2013) *Food for Thought: Investigating where our food comes from*. Sheffield: Geographical Association.
- Roberts, M. (2013) *Geography through Enquiry: Approaches to teaching and learning in the secondary school*. Sheffield: Geographical Association.
- Tanner, J. & Whittle, J. (2013) *The Everyday Guide to Primary Geography: Story*. Sheffield: Geographical Association.
- Taylor, T., Fahey, C., Kriewaldt, J. & Boon, D. (2012) *Place and Time: Explorations in Teaching Geography and History*. Frenchs Forest: Pearson Australia.

Curriculum news and Updates from our Regional Contacts

THE CHANGING FACE OF GEOGRAPHY IN THE NIGERIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM:

Dr.Nuratu Mohammed.(Nigeria's Regional Contact)

Department of Geography, Bayero University, p.m.b, 3011

As a result of the changes in education, the subject of geography in most Nigerian universities in contemporary times is subsumed under the faculty of environmental science, or the faculty of environment and regional planning

In addition to this, geography which used to be compulsory for all senior secondary school science students, now an elective subject for arts inclined students.

The 1978 National Policy on Education in Nigeria saw the emergence of great innovations in most education programs including geography. Contrary to what obtained under the colonial rule where the discipline was extremely descriptive rather than quantitative. The major breakthrough in education reforms in Nigeria emerged with the National Policy on Education, formulated in 1976 revised in 1981 and 1998 and updated in 2004,(NPC,2004) which conformed to the philosophy of the Nigerian education system contrary to the traditional geography curriculum in Nigeria which was western oriented.

Since the 2004 revision of the National Policy on Education, the 2010 basic education curriculum review saw the removal of some of the contents of school geography, in particular the loss of regional geography of Africa. Students now opt for regional geography of Nigeria whereas previously they were able to also study the regional geography of Africa and West Africa. Other newly introduced courses are geographic information System (GIS), fieldwork Surveying and cartography.

Another challenge in education general and geography in particular has been the issue gendering of subjects and courses in Nigeria. The issue of women in education in general and geography in particular as is the case with other subjects can be viewed from the gender perspective. According to Falola (1996) gender refers to the distinction between men and women based on social ,cultural and ideological process including socialization which include discrimination in educational process in terms of the kind of education e.g. domestic science and nursing for girls and women, and engineering and medicine for boys and men. (Falola, 1996:7) The study examines some issues relating to the teaching of geography from the gender perspective with a view to analyzing the factors for the gender variation in its teaching in secondary schools in Kano state. To achieve the aim of the study the following questions were asked: what is the position of geography in the school curriculum today?; do we have gender dichotomy in geography? What are the reasons that we have the dichotomy? How can this issue of dichotomy be resolved?

Clare Brooks - Executive Secretary to the IGU.CGGE



Contact us directly: igucge@gmail.com
IGU-CGGE Website: <http://www.igu-cge.org/>