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Welcome to Newsletter #11!

Dear Colleagues

This newsletter is full of exciting news about the Commission and related events. There are various calls-to-action showing a vibrant and active community of geography educators. Please have a look at the last version of the draft Charter on our website www.igu-cge.org and the latest news on the Commission activities and conferences.

Clare Brooks, John Lidstone and Joop van der Schee

COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION NEWS

New Charter
The final draft of the New Charter will be presented at the 2016 IGU conference in Beijing to be endorsed by the General Assembly of the International Geographical Union. The most recent version of the new Charter is on our website www.igu-cge.org. Any comments can be sent to us before April 8.

GEReCo
The "geography education research collective" (GEReCo) based in England is interested in working with colleagues to establish an international network of similar groups or organisations interested in working collaboratively on geography education research. Please contact David Lambert (david.lambert@ioe.ac.uk) or see www.gereco.org for further information.

TIMSS
During the 2015 IGU conference in Moscow we discussed the initiative to get geography integrated in TIMSS. A recent survey by Terri Bourke and colleagues indicated that of the 74 individual respondents, 50 (71%) would like to see international assessment such as that proposed to TIMSS proceed in Geography while 13 (18%) were currently unsure. Only 8 respondents (11%) indicated that they did not want international assessment to proceed. The nature of the survey prohibits conclusions on strength of support from particular countries, but all continents and thirty-six individual countries were represented.
After Moscow Joop van der Schee and Fernando Alexandre talked with representatives of TIMSS about the possibility to include geography. The results were quite disappointing. It is a perhaps viable but a long road to go to have geography integrated in TIMSS for we have to find a big geography-minded sponsor, convince a lot of countries that it is worthwhile to integrate geography in TIMSS and convince the board of IEA/TIMSS to adapt their structure to integrate geography. Thinking about this Ali Demirci proposed to explore the option to start an international geography test ourselves what might be a good idea after all.

**New Book Series: Perspectives on Geographical Education**

We are pleased to announce that the Commission has now agreed a Book Series with the publisher Springer. The Series is entitled: Perspectives on Geographical Education, and the Commission Steering Group make up the Editorial Board. The aims and scope of the series are as follows:

The Series will seek to publish authoritative, innovative and academically rigorous accounts of geography education research from around the world. Led by the priorities and criteria set out in the Commission’s Declaration on Geography Education Research, the series will play an important role in making geography education research accessible to the global community. Books within the series are likely to be drawn from meetings, conferences and symposiums supported by the Commission, but book editors will also be commissioned for special editions that correspond to the Commission’s ongoing programme of work. In this way, research published in the series will be up-to-date, responsive to the needs of the geography education community, internationally relevant and to a high academic standard. The Series will also seek to support the development of early career researchers in publishing high quality, high impact research accounts.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for consideration, please contact Clare (c.brooks@ioe.ac.uk) in the first instance.

**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/1nrbVzveqZWDWWdouJfnKAKcTHDdKwQdt7xt34mee8/viewform?usp=send_form)

**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, 2016 there is a total of USD 5,715.14 available in the Commission’s account.

**Future of the Commission**

The current Steering Group of the Commission on Geographical Education was appointed for 2012-2016, so this summer at the IGU Congress in Beijing a new Steering Group will start. A member of the Steering Group can serve initially for a period of 4 year and can then be invited to stay for another 4 years. No more than one person per country can be member of the Steering Group. It is a good tradition to look at the distribution of Steering group members across the globe. The IGU Executive Board officially approves the proposal for the new Steering Group. The current co-chairs, John Lidstone and Joop van der Schee, will not continue their work after 2016 A proposal for new Chairs and a new Steering Group has been received and will be discussed by the current Steering Group at the next meeting. In the meantime, if you are interested in being further involved in the work of the Steering Group, then please email Joop before April 8th at j.a.vander.schee@vu.nl
History of the Commission
You may be aware that the Commission on Geographical Education is one of the largest and longest established of the IGU. Our gratitude goes to Norman Graves, who along with Joe Stoltman and other colleagues, have compiled a history of the Commission, which will be published on our website in April 2016 (www.igu-cge.org). This is an incredibly important document, charting how our Commission has been developed, supported and active over the years. We extend our gratitude to Norman and colleagues for such a thorough and interesting account.

We would also like to extend an invitation to other colleagues to share your recollections of the Commission. As we know histories are always being written and it would be great to have an ongoing account of the Commission and its achievements.

IGU CGE Conference News

IGU 2012 Conference – Freiburg and Cologne – Now available online!
Colleagues in Germany have made available the full documentation of our IGC Cologne in 2012 congress for download (free of charge, about 16 MB large). The book contains all opening addresses, all keynote speeches, full documentation of concept, statistics, evaluation - and numerous pictures for commemoration of our event. It is available at this link:

In addition the Freiburg conference proceedings of the 2012 IGU CGE meeting are also available online.

IGU-CGE Conference 2016
Main conference in Singapore, 14 – 16 August 2016
Fieldtrip and special symposium in Shanghai, 17 – 19 August 2016
The theme of the conference is “Geography that matters – empowering learners for a diverse world”. As a prelude to the main congress theme of “Shaping our harmonious worlds”, the organizers are proposing that a deeper understanding of the diversities in our world will be a necessary condition to shape our harmonious future.

The IGU-CGE 2016 conference is organized by the Southeast Asian Geography Association in collaboration with the Geography Teaching Society of China. The conference features an interesting transect from Singapore to Shanghai, and for delegates going to the main congress, onwards to Beijing. True to the nature of Geography, the programme allows the delegates an opportunity to engage a diversity of landscape and contexts while discussing key issues of geography education.

The main conference will take place in Singapore (15 – 16 August 2016) followed by a fieldtrip to Hangzhou and Suzhou with a special symposium held at East China Normal University (ECNU), Shanghai (17 – 19 August 2016). The field visit will include a stroll along the West Lake with a local guide from ECNU, before heading on to Shanghai for the special symposium the next day. On 18 August, there will be a special symposium on “Geography that matters – achieving the capability of solving problems” with special sessions to understand the state of geography education in China as well as a visit to the Geography Education Laboratory and school visits. This will be followed by a sightseeing tour of Shanghai. On 19 August, the delegation will visit the ancient town Tongli that is in Suzhou. Delegates who intend to join the main congress will then travel to Beijing on 19 August on 5 hour high-speed rail.

Delegates will have one of 3 options:
1. Attend both Singapore and Shanghai legs before heading to Beijing
2. Attend Singapore conference only
3. Attend both Singapore and Shanghai legs but leave from Shanghai.

Contact us: igucge@gmail.com
IGU-CGE Website: http://www.igu-cge.org/

The IGU is working in collaboration with the University of La Paz, and the XVI EGAL (Encuentre de Geografos de America Latina) to be held in La Paz, April 2017. This is clearly a very important topic and we are sure will be of interest to geography educators. As commission we are involved in this conference. Thanks to our Steering Group member Osvaldo Muniz Solari for doing the work so far. More information can be found on the IGU website in the months to come.

Lisbon 26-28 October 2017 Commission Symposium
In 2017 we like to have a Commission meeting. We are very grateful to our Steering Group member Fernando Alexandre who will host a Commission Symposium in Lisbon from 26-28 October 2017. This will be organized together with young academics in geography education from Portugal.

Other conferences

International Perspectives on Geography and Earth Science Teacher Education (IPGESTE) 2016
Subject to approval of funds by the SNF, IPGESTE 2016 will be held at the PH FHNW in Switzerland, September 26 to 27.
The conference deals with all phases of pre- and inservice teacher education in both geography and earth science, including geographic aspects in combined subjects such as social studies or science. Invited Speakers come from Switzerland (Sibylle Reinfried, Philippe Hertig), Germany, (Thomas Kisser), the Netherlands (Marian Blankman), Great Britain (Clare Brooks), Israel (Nir Orion), the USA (Joseph Stoltman, Joseph Kerski, Michael Solem, Sarah Bednarz) and Australia (Theresa Bourke).
There will also be an open call for presentations, posters and workshops. All paper presentations and the panel discussion will be in English. Workshops can be submitted in English and/or German and/or French.
More information: http://www.gesellschaftswissenschaften-phfhnw.ch/events/ipgeste-2016/

Geographical Association Annual Conference & Exhibition, 7—9 April 2016, University of Manchester
Each year the GA international Conference welcomes more than 750 delegates from all over the world to take part in a range of lectures, workshops, field visits and social events. Find out more and book your place now at www.geography.org.uk/conference.

2016 AAG Annual Meeting: San Francisco, California
The 2016 AAG Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, California from March 29 - April 2, 2016. The National Center for Research in Geography Education is sponsoring several paper and panel sessions to highlight the work of the GeoCapabilities, GeoSTEM and GeoProgressions projects. A new funding opportunity for geography education research will also be discussed. The full schedule of NCRGE-sponsored sessions is available on the NCRGE website.
For more information about the 2016 AAG Annual Meeting, visit http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting.

Esri Education GIS Conference 25-28 June 2016
San Diego, CA USA
http://www.esri.com/events/educ
The 2016 Esri Education GIS Conference is the premier thought-leadership event for those involved in GIS education. This year’s theme is “Creating a brighter future.” Creativity is both satisfying on a personal level and vital for societies responding to change. More than ever, the ability to create something new is a skill to be cultivated in all people, at all levels of education, in all disciplines. The 2016 Education GIS Conference celebrates those who imagine and build solutions that apply geography for a brighter future.

This year’s annual conference of German Geography Teacher Educators will take place from 5th to 8th of July in Salzburg (Austria). It is entitled “Actively Communicating Places: Civic Education, (Geo)Media, Teaching” and will be
held in cooperation with the GI_Forum (English) and the AGIT conference. The CFP is already closed, but poster proposals can still be submitted until 6th of June. Keynote speakers will be Josef Strobl (University of Salzburg) and Katharyne Mitchell (University of Washington, Seattle).

EUROGEO conference: Geographic Information: for a better world, 29 – 30 September 2016, Malaga Spain
The 2016 EUROGEO Annual Meeting and Conference will be organised in conjunction with the Real Sociedad Geographica and hosted by the University of Malaga, in Spain on 29-30 September 2016. An optional field excursion in the region will take place all day on October 1st 2016. See more at: http://www.eurogeography.eu/conference-2016-malaga/


“The 4th International Geography Symposium” (GEOMED 2016), will be held in Antalya, Turkey; during 23-26 May, 2016. Link: http://geomed.mehmetakif.edu.tr/ENG/index.html

Conferences in South America:


- IV Coloquio Internacional de Investigadores en Didáctica de la Geografía - REDLADGEO (Red Latinoamerica de Investigadores en Didáctica de la Geografía), Bogotá D.C. 6 al 9 de septiembre de 2016.


Further announcements on Geographical Education

The Commission on Geographical Education of the Chilean Society of Geographic Sciences and Curricular Team History, Geography and Social Sciences of the Ministry of Education have established a permanent body working to improve and develop further the presence and role of geography in schools in Chile.

A Network for Professional Growth of Geography Teachers in Southern Africa – SAGTA encourages: the development of teachers in Southern Africa through sharing teaching resources; the importance of Geography as a globally relevant subject within schools; and improves the stature of the role of Geography in Higher Education – please visit: www.sagta.org.za

How to be an effective geography mentor Take a look at these pages aim to provide guidance and support for mentors, and information about in-school geography training and what a well-informed and competent new secondary geography teacher needs to know and be able to do.. http://www.geography.org.uk/gtip/mentoring/

GI Learner: Developing a learning line on GIScience in education

On July, 7th, 2016, GI-Learner - a 3 years ERASMUS+ project dedicated to learning with geoinformation - will present first results and teaching materials in Salzburg, Austria. Two GI-Learner workshops will take place within the international GI-Forum Conference, which attracts more than 1000 attendees from all over the world. The main focus of conference and exhibition is research and application of geoinformation science.

GI-Learner is able to give a grant of 200 EUR to max. 20 persons (100 EUR for inhabitants of Austria) attending the two workshop sessions. We invite teachers of geography or related subjects, geography education researchers, teacher trainers and other multipliers to apply for this grant. There is a limited number of places, which will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

All you need to do is:
- submit your grant request via e-mail to Luc.zwartjes@ugent.be, indicating your name, organisation, profession & country of origin.
- Register for the GI-Forum conference at www.gi-forum.org (early bird is till 25 May)
- Submit your registration confirmation to Luc.zwartjes@ugent.be, and you will receive a grant confirmation.
- Take part in two GI-Learner sessions on Thursday July 7th, 2016 in Salzburg. Bring your own device to the sessions!
- Get your grant there in cash.

Five Forces Catapulting Geography onto the World Stage

Joseph Kerski, Ph.D.
[http://www.directionsmag.com/entry/five-forces-catapulting-geography-onto-the-world-stage/461863]

Five converging global trends may present geography with unprecedented world attention: geo-awareness, geo-enablement, geotechnologies, citizen science and storytelling. Each of these is transforming the audience for geography and the way geography is taught and perceived.

GeoCapabilities in Japan

In February 2016 Michael Solem visited the University of Nara (hosted by Prof HIROSE Yuzo), the University of Nagoya (hosted by Prof KUNO Hiroyuki) and Joetsu University of Education (hosted by Prof SHIMURA Takashi, with Prof YAMAMOTO Ryuta also present) to initiate plans for an expansion of GeoCapabilities project collaborations in Japan. Discussions focused on new lesson study-based research exploring relationships between geographical knowledge, moral reasoning and ethics education. The National Center for Research in Geography Education will fund a workshop in Joetsu in October 2016 involving a delegation of Japanese teacher educators and teachers who will receive training to produce new vignettes of powerful disciplinary knowledge vis-à-vis the forthcoming GeoCapabilities teacher training platform, scheduled for public release in summer 2016. Visit [www.geocapabilities.org](http://www.geocapabilities.org) for additional information about the platform.

The Association of Tunisian Geographers organizes an international symposium on the theme:
Sustainable Environment, Territorial Development and Equity
Hammamet, Thursday 03rd to Sunday, November 6th, 2016
The International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS) jointly announced that 2016 would be the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU). The purpose of the IYGU is to promote global understanding of the relationships...
between local actions and their global consequences. In this context, the Tunisian Geographers Association organizes an international symposium on the theme "Sustainable Environment, Territorial Development and Equity".
E-Mail: AGT_symposium2016@yahoo.com

Publications

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If you are interested in submitting a proposal for consideration, please contact Clare (c.brooks@ioe.ac.uk) in the first instance.

RIGEO being back on track on the website

Website of RIGEO was hacked for a while and we had to make a new website. So you can access to RIGEO again and its new issues on this link: www.rigeo.org.

RIGEO seeks qualified reviewers

Review of International Geographical Education Online (RIGEO) is seeking qualified researchers as reviewers. If you are interested in serving as a member of the “Referee Advisory Board” please fill out this e-form and along with your CV (in English) in the attachment and submit to: eartvinli@gmail.com. You can find information about Responsibilities / Benefits of Reviewers and the form to fill it out here in ANNOUNCEMENT section by clicking “you can join us as reviewee” in the right side: www.rigeo.org

There is a new publication on the German book market for geography teachers and teacher trainers concerning "Reflexive Map Reading":
Gryl, Inga (ed., 2016): Reflexive Kartenarbeit. Diercke Methoden. Braunschweig: Westermann. [German language] This book deals with a critical approach towards working with maps and collects eighteen learning environments for secondary school, that cover different aspects of cartography, geomedia, and mapping. While some contributions extend well-known fields of map work in school such as working with statistical maps, others go beyond traditional contexts and, for instance, examine the link between maps and art.

Alexander Cely Rodríguez y Nubia Moreno Lache. 2015. Concepciones e imágenes de ciudad. Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Bogotá D.C.

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

Education, curriculum, space and place

Children’s geographies

Geography, environment and social science

Landscape and place

History of geography and geology

Fascinating maps

Clare Brooks - Executive Secretary to the IGU.CGE

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