



IGU COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

NEWSLETTER 18, August 2014

Table of contents

Chair's Column	.....2
Past events organised by members of the IGU CPG board	.....6
- 'Diplomatic Cultures' research network, London	.....6
- The Igu-Cpg International Conference, Eugene	.....9
Other past events	.....11
- Changing Geographies: Eugeo, Rome	.....11
- Political Geography Specialty Group Of The AAG Preconference	.....12
- Colloque International « Métropoles Et Régions, Paris	.....12
- Abs 1st World Conference, Joensuu and St. Petersburg	.....13
IGU sponsored future events	.....17
- IGU Regional Conference In Kraków, Poland	.....17
- The 14th 'Lodz' International Political Geography Conference	.....18
Other future events	.....20
- Geopolitics In Changing Southeast Asia: Boundaries and Borderlands	.....20
- Political Geographies Of Development, Risk And Securitization	.....20
- I Congresso Brasileiro De Geografia Política	.....20
- The art of bordering. An art/science symposium	.....21
- 14th International Conference Brit	.....21
- Premiere Journee De Geopolitique De Reims	.....22
IGU-CPG Board	.....23

CHAIR'S COLUMN

What (Political) Geography ought to be

“Geography ... must teach us, from our earliest childhood, that we are all brethren, whatever our nationality. In our time of wars, of national self-conceit, of national jealousies and hatreds ably nourished by people who pursue their own egotistic, personal or class interests, geography must be-in so far as the school may do anything to counterbalance hostile influences- a means of dissipating these prejudices and of creating other feelings more worthy of humanity”
(Kropotkin, What Geography Ought to Be, 1885)

Thirty years have gone by since July 1984, when, in the IGU Congress in Paris, the Study Group on The World Political Map was founded. The Study Group was the ancestor of the present Commission, even if, at the time, the choice of the name was the outcome of heated debates. «Due to the huge pressures exerted at the Paris Congress by the Soviet delegation and its leader, the academician Inokienti Gerasimov, the use of the expression ‘Political Geography’ was criticized (which had a ‘fascist and Nazi connotation’, according to Gerasimov) and the final choice was ‘World Political Map’!». ¹

It was only in 1996 that the Study Group, which in the meantime had been turned into a Commission, changed its name, acquiring the more wide-ranging, and by then fully rehabilitated, label of Political Geography. Since then, the CPG has had many chairs, and many political geographers have served as members of the board. In this lapse of time, the same Political Geography has changed, opening up to new interests, new topics, new theoretical influences, new ideas. New concepts have been developed in order to frame them (like the idea of borderscape), new approaches to their analysis (like border aesthetics), new ways of representing them (like popular geopolitics and media analysis). There are also new journals, blogs and websites, even Facebook pages. Indeed, all the reports and announcements in this newsletter are a testimony of this dynamism, together with the tens of papers submitted to the CPG sponsored sessions in the next IGU Regional Conference in Krakow.

For sure, Political Geography is on the move. All the same, this opening towards new intellectual realms has not cancelled the disciplinary roots. Not only some of the traditional

¹ <http://www.cas.miamioh.edu/igu-cpg/IGUCPGhistory.html>

topics of Political Geography are now livelier than ever (like boundaries and borders, for instance). But there is also a growing interest towards the history of the discipline, its traditional concepts and its theoretical foundations. Conferences about canonical authors have been organised, special issues have been edited, and many efforts of rethinking, rediscovering, reformulating old notions (like ‘territory’, ‘space’, ‘place’, or ‘nation’) and their relation with power have been attempted. Moreover, some old ideas, subsequently left apart by the mainstream developments of the discipline, have been revitalised, acquiring new impetus and a much more visible relevance.

Indeed, reading geographers of the past is sometimes a good exercise. Not only in order to dismiss the more realist attitudes of some of them, but also to appreciate and to revitalise the efforts of some others to work towards making the world a more peaceful place. In this perspective, together with its traditional penchant towards war studies, Political Geography has started to study peace (again). The connection between peace research and geographical studies has been variously explored for decades. The French geographers Jean Brunhes and Camille Vallaux were already attempting to analyse geographically war and peace in 1921. Forty years later, a meeting on peace research was held in 1964, in Syracuse, N.Y., with about 70 attendees; they decided to organise a special session on «Peace Research and Geography» at the next annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (see Brush, 1964). A subsequent meeting, in 1965, helped in fixing the terms of the debate: how could geographers contribute to peace studies, collaborating with colleagues of other disciplines, and how could peace research be included within geography (Stolberg, 1965). Periodically, new «calls for arms» in this directions have been launched (Pepper and Jenkins, 1983 and 1985; Van der Wusten and O’ Loughlin, 1986; O’ Loughlin and Van der Wusten, 1986; Kliot and Waterman, 1991; Flint, 2005) and an important field of research has been developed since then. Now, political geography is again trying to develop a “new” agenda for peace research, as suggested by Nick Megoran in his 2011 editorial of Political Geography (Megoran 2011), and even to go beyond the more traditional approaches, to imagine «peaceful geographies» as the ones sketched by Simon Dalby (2011) in an inspiring paper published in the same special issue of the journal. A growing body of literature can testify the interest towards the topic (Gregory, 2010; Inwood and Tyner, 2011; Koopman, 2012; Loyd, 2012; Megoran, McConnell, Williams, 2014). At the same time, an attempt to develop an applied political geography, analysing the United Nations peace operations, has been developed by a former Chair of this Commission, André Louis Sanguin (Sanguin, 2014). However, that geographical knowledge may help people to make peace and not (only) war, is not a novelty. Already in the mid Nineteenth century, for instance, Carlo Cattaneo (1801-1869), one of the leaders of the 1848 Milanese revolution, used to say that different people do not love each other, because they do not know each other. Cattaneo was a political

philosopher, not a geographer. But among his many followers and disciples, there was at least one geographer, Arcangelo Ghisleri (1855-1938). Ghisleri tried to put in practice Cattaneo's ideas, he mixed them with Élisée Reclus' suggestions, (who was involved in the Ligue de la Paix et de la Liberté, see Pelletier, 2009) and reached the conviction that geographical knowledge should be used as an instrument for popular empowerment. So, he launched a journal, called *Geografia per tutti* (a title that we could translate, in English, as Geography for everyone) and started an intellectual battle, in order to dismiss the pseudo-scientific bases of racial discrimination. In 1896, he published a book about colonialism, where he tried to dispel the colonial assumption of a right of supposedly superior races to conquer the lands of supposedly inferior races. In the book, he used history and geography in order to demonstrate, scientifically, that "the theories of those who want to justify, with Science, the abuses of a race against the others, have as their only support a pretentious ignorance" (Ghisleri, 1896, author's translation). A few years later, together with other exiled people in Lugano in Switzerland, he founded the journal *Coenobium* (1906-1919), aimed at promulgating pacifist propaganda and at fighting «a war against all wars» (the journal motto was «*Guerra alle guerre*») (Anta, 2010 and 2012).

The potential role of geographical knowledge to improve reciprocal understanding has been suggested many other times (and also the idea that «geopolitics» can offer a perspective on «geopacifism», as T. Griffith Taylor tried to do in the late 1940s). Some fifteen years later Bunge (1973) adopted an even more open approach: after demonstrating how mass education of young people is indeed «the only investment source that makes for wealth» (p. 287), he remarked that «geographers must labor to make sure that the earth's surface truly becomes the home of man [sic], that mankind comes to some peace, some rest, some harmony, and ultimate unity with nature. The ultimate contribution of geography is not merely to describe the earth's surface as the home of man [sic], but to help make the definition come true» (Bunge 1973, p. 290).

Therefore, the importance of knowing other people, in order to respect them, and to promote peace among them, has been recognised as a task of the discipline for a long time. Such an aim, if universal to the general discipline (indeed, IGU is promoting the Year of Global Understanding in 2016), is even more relevant to Political Geography. The more than twenty papers submitted to the sessions organised by this Commission – together with the Commission on History of Geography, for the IGU Regional Conference in Krakow this summer – under the title «What (Political) Geography ought to be», confirm this interest. Indeed, as Inwood and Tyner (2011, p. 443) rightly underline, «When geographers debate the content of their discipline, we should not judge by the method or topic or systematic specialty, but instead by the ethics».

Elena dell'Agnese

- Anta C.G., Guerra alla Guerra. La lezione pacifista di «Coenobium», Roma, Aracne, 2010.
- Anta C.G., La battaglia pacifista di Coenobium, in G. Angelini, ed., Nazione, democrazia e pace: tra Ottocento e Novecento, Milano, Franco Angeli, 2012, pp. 143-162.
- Brush J.E., Peace Research And Geography, *The Professional Geographer*, 16, 4, 1964, pp. 49-49.
- Brunhes J., Vallaux C., La géographie de l'histoire, géographie de la paix et de la guerre sur terre et sur mer, Paris, F. Alcan, 1921
- Bunge W. W., The geography of human survival, *Ann. Ass. Am. Geogr.* 63, 1973, pp. 275-95.
- Dalby S., Peace And Geopolitics: Imagining Peaceful Geographies, 2011, http://http-server.carleton.ca/~sdalby/papers/PEACEFUL_GEOGRAPHIES.pdf
- Flint C., ed., The geography of war and peace from death camps to diplomats, Oxford - New York, Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Ghisleri A., Le Razze Umane E Il Diritto Nella Questione Coloniale ..., Bergamo, Istituto Italiano d' Arti Grafiche, 1986 and 1896,
<https://archive.org/details/lerazzeumaneil00ghisgoog>
- Gregory D., War and peace, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 35(2), 2010, pp. 154 – 186
- Griffith Taylor T., Our evolving civilization: an introduction to geopacifism, geographical aspects of the path toward world peace, University of Toronto Press, 1946.
- Inwood J., Tyner J., Geography's Pro-Peace Agenda: An Unfinished Project, *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*, 10, 3, 2011, pp. 442-457,
http://www.acme-journal.org/vol10/Inwood_Tyner2011.pdf
- Kliot N., Waterman S., eds., The political geography of conflict and peace, London, Belhaven, 1991
- Koopman S., Alter-geopolitics: Other securities are happening, *Geoforum*, 42, 3, 2011, pp. 274–284 <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016718511000091>
- Kropotkin P., What Geography Ought to Be. *The Nineteenth Century*, 18, 1885, 940-56,
<http://www.praxis-epress.org/CGR/2-Kropotkin.pdf>
- Loyd J.M., Geographies of Peace and Antiviolence, *Geography Compass*, 6,8, 2012, pp. 477-489.
- Megoran N., N. War and peace? An agenda for peace research and practice in geography, *Political Geography*, 30, 2011,
<http://about.elsevier.com/pdf/JPGQ/MegoranWarPeace.pdf>
- Megoran N., McConnell F. and Williams P. (eds.) *Geographies of Peace*, London, I.B. Tauris, 2014 <http://www.cas.miamioh.edu/igu-cpg/IGUCPGhistory.html>
- O' Loughlin J., van der Wusten H., Geography, War and Peace: Notes for a Contribution to a Revived Political Geography, *Progress in Human Geography*, 10, 4, 1986, pp. 484-510.
- Pelletier P., Élisée Reclus, géographie et anarchie, éditions Libertaires/éditions du Monde libertaire, 2009.
- Pepper D., Jenkins A., A Call to Arms: Geography and Peace Studies , *Area*, 15, 3 1983, pp. 202-208.
- Sanguin A.L., Les opérations de maintien de la paix des Nations unies, une géographie politique appliquée, *L'Espace politique*, 23, 2, 2014.
- Stolberg I., Geography and Peace Research, *The Professional Geographer*, 17, 4, 1965, pp. 9-12.

PAST EVENTS ORGANISED BY MEMBERS OF THE IGU CPG BOARD**'Diplomatic Cultures' Research Network, second workshop****Friday 21- Saturday 22 June 2013 at University College London**

(by Fiona McConnell)

The Diplomatic Cultures research network was launched by Jason Dittmer and Fiona McConnell in 2013 with funding from the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council under their 'translating cultures' research theme. It explores the role that different cultures play in two trends which have emerged within diplomatic practice and theory in recent years: (1) an increasing focus on different modes of diplomacy drawing on ideas of soft power and practices of public diplomacy, and (2) a broadening of the type of actor engaged in diplomatic practices to include non-state organisations. The network brings together an international group of interdisciplinary scholars, practitioners, and stakeholders to discuss the changing landscape of international diplomacy, focusing in particular on three intersecting issues:

1. the strategies and modes of translation between and across diplomatic cultures
2. the role of space and spatiality in diplomatic exchange
3. the articulation of diplomatic cultures and practices beyond traditional spaces of state-focused diplomacy.

The network has, to date, centered around three workshops each focused on a different theme and held in Cambridge (Translating Diplomatic Culture, February 2013), London (Spaces of Diplomatic Culture, June 2013), and The Hague (Alternative Cultures of Diplomacy, November 2013). Exploring the broad themes of this research network, the first workshop focused on questions of how diplomacy is imagined and practiced differently across a range of times and spaces and how normative practices of diplomacy emphasised in the UN system are echoed, rearticulated and re-worked in other cultural contexts. Extending beyond the ideas of cultural diplomacy and public diplomacy, this workshop examined the modes of translation of diplomatic discourses and practices in relation to a range of governmental, inter-governmental, NGO and public audiences. The second workshop focused on the spaces within and through which diplomatic culture is articulated and translated. If diplomacy is theorised as the process of negotiating estrangement between two groups, spatiality emerges as integral to any practice of ameliorating that estrangement and this workshop focused on the following questions. How does the emergence of digital spaces produce new and different forms of diplomacy? Can 'old' diplomatic practices be translated for these 'new' spaces or does it require an entirely new theorisation? How are spaces

produced as diplomatic spaces through the ritualised performance of actors? Shifting attention beyond diplomacy as the domain of states alone, the final workshop explored a series of alternative cultures and spaces of diplomacy which disrupt the national/international binary that is central to conventional theorisations. Issues of the diplomacy of indigenous communities, the ‘paradiplomacy’ of sub-national governments and the diplomatic practices of non-state polities are attracting increasing academic attention and this workshop brought together a range of academics and diplomatic practitioners engaged with such margins of the inter-state system.

Each workshop was attended by 17-20 academics from a range of disciplines as well as practitioners including representatives from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, US embassy and diplomats from unrecognised states. The format has been based on a mix of keynote presentations and roundtable discussions, which facilitates the exchange of ideas and the building of social connections across the network. Keynote speakers have included Costas Constantinou, Merje Kuus, Iver Neumann, Virginie Mamadouh, Herman van der Wusten and Noé Cornago and each workshop has been recorded by the Backdoor Broadcasting Company and is available as podcasts. Papers from these workshops will be collated by the organisers and published as an edited volume, and a report is also being compiled for the FCO. The network is open to anyone who has an interest in the themes outlined above. For further information, including sign up for the network’s list serve and links to podcasts from the workshops, please see www.diplomaticcultures.com



Merje Kuus, University of British Columbia, at the first workshop “Translating diplomatic culture“, University of Cambridge 15-16 February 2013.



Herman van der Wusten (former chair of the IGU Commission on the World Political Map, the predecessor of IGU-CPG 1992-1996), University of Amsterdam, at the second workshop “Spaces of diplomatic culture“, University College London, 21-22 June 2013



Participants to the third workshop “Alternative cultures of diplomacy” convened at UNPO secretariat, Bertha von Suttner building, The Hague, 8-9 November 2013, In front of the Peace Palace, The Hague.

The Igu-Cpg International Conference

Eugene, June 19-21 2014

(by Alexander Murphy)

On June 19-21, 2014, the Department of Geography at the University of Oregon hosted a meeting of the IGU Commission on Political Geography in Eugene, Oregon. The conference theme was the Political Geography and the Environment. The conference consisted of two days of sessions followed by a day-long field trip to the Oregon coast. Commission Steering Committee member Professor Alexander Murphy hosted the conference—ably assisted by University of Oregon doctoral student Anna Moore. Most of the participants came from the United States and Canada, but two young scholars came from Mexico, and former Commission chair Anton Gosar won the informal award for coming the farthest: from Slovenia.

Simon Dalby kicked off the first day of the conference with a wide-ranging, provocative plenary address. Playing off of Neil Smith’s effort to link nature, capital, and the production of space, Dalby sketched out a variety of ways in which political geographers can and should engage environmental themes. His address was followed by sessions focused on transboundary water issues, the power-politics-environment relationship, and the environmental dimensions of consumption.

Shannon O’Lear gave the opening plenary address on the second day of the meeting, discussing the environment-geopolitics link and the need to examine the assumptions behind the ways in which issues of scarcity, security, and resilience are framed. Papers during the day focused on questions of environmental governance, the disconnect between development initiatives in particular places and local environmental conditions, and the relationship between political geography and political ecology.

The formal part of the meeting ended with an interesting discussion highlighting the need for more engagement by political geographers with environmental matters and communicating the nature and importance of the types of issues raised at the conference to a broader audience. On the last day of the gathering, many of the participants who came from farther afield took a daylong field trip to the Oregon coast led by Alec Murphy. The group explored the extraordinary physical environment along the coast and learned about the planning and legislative initiatives that have succeeded in keeping much of the Oregon coast within the public domain.



Alec Murphy, with Simon Dalby and Natalie Koch, during the fieldtrip

OTHER PAST EVENTS

Changing Geographies: Eugeo

Rome, September 2013

(by Filippo Celata)

The 2013 Congress of Eugeo - the organization of European geographical societies - has taken place on September 5-7 2013 with the title Europe, what's next? Changing geographies and geographies of change. The IV edition of the Congress registered a significant increase in the number of participants. Six hundreds scholars and students from 44 countries have gathered at the University of Roma "La Sapienza". There were 45 plenaries and parallel sessions. An open call for sessions allowed us in the programme an extremely rich variety of themes, with a particular emphasis on the geography of landscapes, the effects of the economic crisis, the relations between Europe and the rest of the world. In the table below, the list of political geography sessions:

Sessions	Organizers	Number of presentations
Beyond "Fortress Europe"? Bordering and crossbordering processes along the European Union external frontiers	Filippo Celata, University of Rome La Sapienza (Italy); Raffaella Coletti, University of Rome La Sapienza (Italy); James W. Scott, University of Eastern Finland (Finland)	28
Ethno-cultural diversity and the question of the national	Marco Antonsich, Loughborough University (UK)	11
Geographies of TransformAction: spaces, processes, practices and tactics of reappropriation in contemporary activism	Network Geografi-A (Italy-France)	15
New geo-graphies of exile. Displacements, re-placements and literary reconstructions of belonging	Elena dell'Agnese, University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy); Michael J. Shapiro, University of Hawai'i at Manoa (USA)	5
New spatialities: Europe and its neighbouring regions	Sebastian Lentz, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography and Leipzig University (Germany); Maria Paradiso, University of Sannio (Italy)	8
Planning 'outer' relations: strategical partnership, neighbourhood policy and their local impact	Judith Miggelbrink, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Germany)	5

Postmodern cartographies: epistemological and methodological issues in mapping power and social change	Edoardo Boria, Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)	9
Spatialities: topography and/versus topology in contemporary spatial thinking	Dario Gentili, Università di Roma Tre (Italy); Paolo Giaccaria, Università di Torino (Italy); Claudio Minca, Wageningen University (Netherlands)	9
Changing geographies and policy challenges in European territorial cooperation and EU macro regional strategies	Silvia Grandi, Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority / University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy)	4
The European Union between the US and China: towards a tripolar world system or a Sino-centric world-system?	Fabio Massimo Parenti, International Institute Lorenzo de' Medici (Italy)	4

Political Geography Specialty Group Of The AAG Preconference

7 April 2014

(by Reece Jones)

The Political Geography Specialty Group of the AAG held its 2014 preconference at the University of South Florida on Monday April 07. It was hosted by Jayajit Chakrabarty, Pratyusha Bosu and the School of Geosciences at USF. There were approximately 60 people at the pre-conference, which included 32 papers and a plenary panel on Florida politics featuring Jason Dittmer, Fred Shelley, Susan McManus, and Martin Bosman. The next PGSG preconference will be held at the Lincoln Park Campus of Depaul University in Chicago on Monday 20 April, 2015. Kara Dempsey will act as local coordinator. A call for papers will be circulated in the fa

Colloque International « Métropoles Et Régions, Entre Concurrences Et

Complémentarités. Regards Croisés France / Italie »

9, 10, 11 Avril 2014, Paris

(by Fabio Amato)

Organisé par l'Ecole française de Rome, en partenariat avec l'UMR Géographie-cités (Universités Paris-Diderot et Paris 1, CNRS) et le Lab'urba (Université Paris-Est), et avec la collaboration des Universités de Rome, de Turin et de Naples, ce colloque a réuni à la fois des enseignants-chercheurs et chercheurs en géographie, aménagement du territoire, histoire, sciences politiques et sociales, et des responsables politiques et des techniciens de l'aménagement métropolitain et régional.

Dans un contexte marqué par la multiplication des débats et des réformes portant sur les mailles métropolitaines en Europe, ce colloque international a essayé de contribuer à la réflexion contemporaine sur les rapports entre les échelles régionale et métropolitaine.

La question des concurrences et des complémentarités entre régions et métropoles se pose avec une importance nouvelle depuis environ deux décennies dans un double contexte : celui de la mondialisation qui, en Europe comme ailleurs, accentue les concurrences entre territoires « gagnants » et « perdants » ; et celui de la décentralisation, qui contribue à redéfinir les formes de gouvernance dans un processus toujours évolutif.

Les trois premières sessions étaient intitulées : “ Métropoles et régions : une histoire déjà longue ”; “ Constructions et représentations des territoires régionaux et métropolitains ” et “ Métropoles et régions dans la course à la métropolisation ”. Deux sessions ont été consacrées au sujet-clé de la gouvernance et l'aménagement ont été consacrés deux sessions. Toujours dans la dimension de la comparaison entre l'Italie et la France, deux sessions se sont déroulées sur les politiques sectorielles et sur les interstices métropolitains. Des représentants des collectivités locales des deux pays ont participé à la table ronde animée par les organisateurs.

Association Of Borderland Studies: Abs 1st World Conference

9-13 June 2014, Joensuu, Finland – St. Petersburg, Russia

(by Edward Boyle)

The first Association of Borderland Studies World Conference was held this year on June 9-13 in Joensuu, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia, seeking to provide a forum for a global gathering of border scholars. While the Association was initially formed in 1976 by scholars focussed upon the United States-Mexico borderlands, it was decided in 2012 to reflect the growing internationalization of the Association's membership by hosting a World Conference every four years, in addition to the Annual Meetings held in a western US city. Rather than merely duplicate that meeting in a different hemisphere, however, the goal is to provide a gathering not tied to one specific location, which can bring together various

scholarly networks and the wider border studies community. The 400-plus participants from 50-odd countries were testament to the success of the organizer's vision.

Hosting duties were shared between Joensuu and St. Petersburg, with a fleet of six busses shuttling participants between the two venues on Wednesday, June 11. The same globalization that has driven the expansion of the geographical spread of the organization's members and concerns was also visible in this decision to cross the border during the conference. The still-ongoing tug-of-war occurring in Ukraine between EU and Russian interests potentially affects the situation of academics crossing the border between them, and indeed one Ukrainian colleague was ultimately refused entry to Russia. The tension, of course, serves to underline the significance of what the ABS World Conference sought to achieve, bringing home to everyone the importance of further work on the borders that exist between us and how they are functioning today, in a world criss-crossed by markers and means of inclusion and exclusion.

The Conference succeeded in both appealing to the Association's past while looking towards a more expansive future in its plenary sessions, the speakers of which provided a marvellous cross-section of the potential of this gathering for the future. Along with speeches from two distinguished border scholars from Russia and Finland (Alexander Filippov and Anssi Paasi), there was a talk provided by Oscar Martinez, producer of ground-breaking work on the US-Mexico borderlands and founder member of ABS. If Oscar succeeded in demonstrating the Association's connections with its own past, Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary and Paul Nugent both pointed towards its future in exciting new ways. Paul's talk, as well as the cooperation and participation of the African Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE), allowing for African border experiences to be better represented than is frequently the case at these events. As with the increasing tension between the EU and Russia's borders, though, the denial of visas to the majority of ABORNE's African members once again showed the continuing centrality and inequality in the border functions in our connected world. This inequitable order supported by our current borders is ripe for being challenged in the manner Anne-Laure's exciting work at the intersection between art, advocacy and academia provides.

The excellence of the sessions on offer during the four days of the conference were matched by the more social sides of the occasion, with generous entertainment provided on each evening and during the bus ride to St. Petersburg. This generosity extended to the provision of a Student Paper Award, the three winners of which were announced at a reception hosted by Joensuu's Mayor in the city's Art Gallery. From speaking to many of the participant's, it was clear that the original concept behind the Conference was being successfully realized, and the bar has been set very high for the next edition of ABS World when, like the World Cup, it rolls around in four years' time.



Victor Konrad (left) and Jussi Laine of the Association of Borderland Studies flank the winners of the Student Paper Competition, Truong Khac Nguyen Minh, Emily Knowles, and (ahem) myself.



At the ABS World Conference Virginie Mamadouh presents David Newman, former Secretary of the IGU CPG, with an Award, marking his retirement from editing the journal *Geopolitics* after fifteen years.

Joensuu – Imatra – Vyborg – St Petersburg

(by Virginie Mamadouh)

The bus trip between the two venues of the ABS World Conference brought the participants through Karelia, a region politically divided since the border shift between Finland and the USSR. The first stop was in Imatra, the Finnish industrial border town, for the lunch break at a lovely lake shore; where the mayor informed the group about cross border cooperation since the end of the Cold War. At the other side of the border, the next stop was in the town of Vyborg where the groups visited the famous castle. The region was for centuries a disputed territory between Sweden and Novgorod (later Russia). Viipuri/Viborg became Russian in 1710, was incorporated in the Finnish Duchy that was ceded by Sweden to Russia in the early 19th century, and was part of Finland when it gained independence after the Russian Revolution in 1917. The city fell twice to the Red Army during the Second World War, while the incorporation of the region to the Soviet Union was definitively accepted by Finland in 1947. At this occasion Finland lost a large part of its Karelian territory and a large number of displaced persons marked postwar society, in the context of a perilous balance exercise that kept Finland independent from its mighty neighbour, the so-called Paasikivi-Kekkonen line (also known pejoratively as Finlandization). For many border researchers, a visit through a landscape described so skillfully by Anssi Paasi in his groundbreaking book *Territories, Boundaries, and Consciousness: The changing geographies of the Finnish-Russian boundary* (1996, J. Wiley & Sons) was an outright invitation to reread the monograph. Although no plenary has been organized to complement the trip with an update of the book (some reflections on the institutionalization of the border and Finnish national identity since the 1995 and the 2004 enlargement of the European Union), a special plenary did feature a double retrospective by Prof. Anssi Paasi and Prof. David Newman in which they revisited their seminal article “Fences and neighbours in the post-modern world: Boundary narratives in political geography” (1998 in *Progress in Human Geography*, 22 (2), 186-207),

IGU SPONSORED FUTURE EVENTS

Igu Regional Conference In Kraków, Poland

Changes, Challenges, Responsibility

18-22 August 2014

Sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by the Commission on Political Geography (CPG) at the Regional Conference:

C12.33 Political Geography

- Political Geographies of Society and Nature - Chairperson: Paul Reuber
- Transforming Political Geographies in the 21st century: Case Studies on Local, National and Global Scale -Chairperson: Paul Reuber
- Contemporary Conflicts and New/Old Forms of Belligerence -Chairperson: Elena dell'Agnese
- Political Geographies of Multilingualism 1: Demographies and ethnicities -Chairperson: Virginie Mamadouh
- Political Geographies of Multilingualism 2: Boundary making -Chairperson: Virginie Mamadouh
- Political Geographies of Multilingualism 3 Politics and Policies - Chairperson: Virginie Mamadouh
- Here There Everywhere: Social Movements Spatializing Dissent - Chairperson: Valeria Pecorelli
- European Integration 1: Territoriality -Chairpersons: Virginie Mamadouh, Anna Casaglia, Jussi Laine
- European Integration 2: Borders and Cross-Border Co-operations - Chairpersons: Virginie Mamadouh, Anna Casaglia, Jussi Laine
- European integration 3: Eastern Partnership and ENP - Chairpersons: Virginie Mamadouh, Anna Casaglia, Jussi Laine
- European Integration 4: Processes of Europeanization - Chairpersons: Virginie Mamadouh, Anna Casaglia, Jussi Laine
- European Integration, Conflict Resolutions and Persisting Divides

C12.33 Political Geography

- Special session sponsored by the academic journal Political Geography: The Political Geographies of Camps -Chairpersons: Elena dell'Agnese, James Sidaway.

- Political Geography IGU 2014 lecture: Camps. Claudio Minca, Wageningen University. Intervention: Vladimir Kolossov, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences
- Political Geography Session: The Political Geographies of Camps. Chairpersons: Irit Katz, James D. Sidaway

C12.20 History of Geography / C12.33 Political Geography

- What (Political) Geography Ought to Be? Theoretical Approaches to and Historical Perspectives on Geography and Geopolitics as Instruments of Peace - Chairpersons: Elena dell'Agnese, Toshiyuki Shimazu

C12.10 Gender and Geography / C12.33 Political Geography

- Gender, Human Rights and Citizenship - Chairpersons: Inocent Moyo, Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg

C12.15 Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change / C12.33 Political Geography

- Tourism and Political Borders - Chairpersons: Marek Więckowski, Elena dell'Agnese
- Dark Tourism, Heritage and War -Chairpersons: Carolin Funck, Tim Coles, Elena dell'Agnese

OTHER FUTURE EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE IGU CPG COMMISSION

The 14th 'Lodz' International Political Geography Conference

Igu Cpg Pre Conference Workshop - August 15–17, 2014 Łopuszna (Poland)

“Geographical-Political Aspects Of The Transborder Conservation Of Natural And Cultural Heritage”

(by Marek Sobczynski)

The Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies, University of Lodz is organising the 14th 'Lodz' International Political Geography Conference together with the IGU CPG Workshop that will be held on August 15–17, 2014.

The conference organizers intend to discuss the following issues:

- integration vs peripherality – changes in border regions;
- contemporary changes in border regions – new challenges for political geography;
- geopolitics of borders and borderlands in globalised World;

- the role of Euroregions in the transborder heritage conservation;
- transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage between the EU member and not-member countries;
- contemporary practice in the field of the conservation of natural and cultural heritage all over the World.

Traditionally, the theme of the conference is connected with the place where it is held. This time it will be Łopuszna village in Southern Poland near city of Nowy Targ. All papers presented at the conference and accepted by editors will be published in the next volume of *Region and Regionalism* No. 12.

The organizers assure bus transportation from Łódź to the place of the conference on 14th of August, 2014 and back to Cracow and Łódź on 18th of August, after the breakfast. The next circular will include detailed instructions for those who would prefer to get to the proceedings place on their own. The conference is co-sponsored by: University of Łódź, Poland, Silesian Institute in Opole, Commission on Political and Historical Geography, Polish Geographical Society, Commission on Political Geography International Geographical Union

OTHER FUTURE EVENTS

International Conference Geopolitics In Changing Southeast Asia: Boundaries And Borderlands

Yunnan Normal University, Kunming, China, 20-23 July 2014

See <http://www.igu-cpg.unimib.it/?p=953>

Political Geographies of development, risk and securitization,

Department Of Geography In Bonn, Germany 30 Sept.- 2 Oct. 2 2014

The German-speaking Speciality Groups Political Geography organizes together with the German-speaking Speciality Group Development Geography and Political Ecology a joint meeting on Political Geographies of Development, Risk and Securitization at the Department of Geography in Bonn, Germany from September, 30 - October, 2 2014

See http://www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/forschung/psp/risiko/aktuelles/DevRiskSec_Tagungsprogramm.pdf

I Congresso Brasileiro de Geografia Política, Geopolítica e Gestão do Território: Racionalidades e práticas em múltiplas escalas 7 - 10 October 2014

First Brazilian Conference on Political Geography, Geopolitics and Territorial Planning: Rationalities and practices at multiple scales

Premier Congres brésilien de géographie politique, géopolitique et aménagement du territoire: rationalités et pratiques en multiples échelles

Organised by the Brazilian Network of Political Geography, Geopolitics and Territorial Planning, created in Manaus in 2013.

Rede Brasileira de Geografia Política, Geopolítica e Gestão do Território (REBRAGEO)

Topic 1: Classical and contemporary Political Geography and Geopolitics

Topic 2: Environmental (geo)politics, management of resources and sustainabilities

Topic 3: Localism, nationalism, regionalism, globalism

Topic 4: Borders: An ongoing territorial challenge

Topic 5: Scales of management of territorial policies

Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Campus Gávea da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio),

Working Language: Portuguese and Spanish

More information: <http://www.geo.puc-rio.br/congresso/>

The art of bordering. Economies, performances and technologies of migration control.**An art/science symposium****Rome, 25-26 October 2014, Museum Maxxi**

The Art of Bordering is an art science event about the material and symbolic construction of the Mediterranean as a frontier zone, the dynamics, politics and dispositives for the management and control of migration, the strategies of adaptation, contestation and subversion of the “fortress Europe”. This event is coproduced by the Institut Français en Italie, the antiAtlas of Borders and the LabexMed (ANR). It will rely on the partnership of Italian academic and cultural institutions based in Rome.

The antiAtlas of Borders is an international research program studying the mutations of 21st century borders through art, science and practice. It is coproduced by the Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Research (Marseille), the Higher Art School of Aix en Provence, PACTE (Grenoble University), Isabelle Arvers and La Compagnie (Marseille). Enquete Art is a collective of artists and philosophers focusing on the impact of the unleashed financial system on societal fields such as work, security, climate, health and the legal system. It is funded by the EU Culture 2007-2013 programme, and the German Metal Workers Foundation. Based on art science experiments realized in the framework of the antiAtlas of borders, this event will anchor around an art science symposium and a Rome wide artistic campaign. It will gather, in Rome, Italian, French, German, and British social scientists, philosophers and artists, during three days. They will reflect on today’s adjustments of EU migration policies and control mechanisms on the northern shores of the Mediterranean. The symposium will include three sessions that will associate the presentation of academic papers and art work, and a special round table. Within the symposium, original works by Italian and European artists will be exhibited to the public at large and discussed by the participants.

Brit XIV Belgium-France 4-7 November 2014**14th International Conference Brit (Border Regions In Transition)**

The border, a source of innovation. / La frontière, source d’innovation

November 4, 2014 : Arras (France)

November 5, 2014 : field day from France to Belgium

November 6, 2014 : Lille (France)

November 7, 2014 : Mons (Belgium)

In partnership with the Association for Borderlands Studies and the Journal of Borderlands Studies More Information: <http://www.brit2014.org/>

Première Journée de Géopolitique de Reims**Université De Reims Champagne Ardenne (Urc) 12 November 2014**

First 'Geopolitical Day' in Rheims, with the participation of Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (the ABS founder) and Vladimir Kolossov (IGU-UGI President). The topic of the meeting will be: The role of Borders in contemporary world.

Les frontières ne se situent pas seulement sur un gradient debordering/rebordering, mais elle peuvent encore être créées ou tracées: la naissance de nouveaux États ou de nouvelles entités autonomes (référendum d'autodétermination en Écosse, en Catalogne, et dans différents états du monde : Bougainville, Mindanao, etc.) implique de tracer de nouvelles frontières; de même les contestations territoriales n'ont pas disparues (Russie/Ukraine), ainsi la logique de l'effacement n'est pas seule à caractériser notre monde.

La représentation dominante de l'effacement est très idéologique, elle est liée à l'avènement de l'économie de marché après 1991, "l'obsession des frontières" (Foucher 2007) et la lutte pour le territoire restent des pourtant des problématiques géopolitiques sensibles et vivantes. La conférence est organisée par le laboratoire de recherche Habiter.

Contacts: Sébastien Piantoni ou Stéphane Rosière

Courriels: labo-habiter@univ-reims.fr ou sebastien.piantoni@univ-reims.fr ou stephane.rosiere@univ-reims.fr

Tél : 03 26 91 36 81 Site Internet : www.univ-reims.fr/habiter

Chairman / Président:

Elena DELL'AGNESE
Department of Sociology and Social Research
University of Milano-Bicocca
Via Bicocca degli Arcimboldi 8
20126 Milan, Italy
e-mail : elena.dellagnese@unimib.it

Secretary / Secrétaire:

Virginie MAMADOUH
Department of Human Geography, Planning and
International Development
University of Amsterdam
Postbus 15629
1001 NC Amsterdam, The Netherlands
e-mail: V.D.Mamadouh@uva.nl

Steering Committee / Comité de Direction:

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

Paul REUBER
Institute of Geography
University of Münster
Robert Koch Strasse 26
48149 Münster, Germany
e-mail: p.reuber@uni-muenster.de

Ian WENDT
Faculty of Oceanography and Geography
Department of Regional Development Geography
University of Gdańsk,
al. Marszałka Piłsudskiego 46,
81-378 Gdynia, Poland
e-mail: jan.wendt@ug.edu.pl

Alexandru ILIES
Department of Geography
University of Oradea
Str. Armata Romana 5
410078 Oradea, Romania
e-mail : ilies@uoradea.ro

Alexander MURPHY
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1251, USA
e-mail : abmurphy@uoregon.edu

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

Oren YIFTACHEL
Department of Geography and Environmental
Development
Ben Gurion University of the Negev
P.O.B. 653 Beer Sheva, Israel
e-mail: yiftach@exchange.bgu.ac.il

James SIDAWAY
Dept. of Geography
National University of Singapore
AS2, #03-01, 1 Arts Link,
Kent Ridge, Singapore 117570, Singapore
e-mail: geojds@nus.edu.sg

Simon DALBY
CIGI Chair in the Political Economy of Climate
Change
Balsillie School of International Affairs/ Wilfrid
Laurier University
67 Erb Street West
Waterloo, ON N2L 6C2 Canada
e-mail: sdalby@gmail.com

Honorary member and honorary Vice Chair:
Anton GOSAR
Department of Geography
University of Primorska
Titov trg 4, 6000
Koper, Slovenia
e-mail : anton.gosar@guest.arnes.si

Webmaster: Anna CASAGLIA
Department of Sociology and Social Research
University of Milano-Bicocca
Via Bicocca degli Arcimboldi 8
20126 Milan, Italy
e-mail anna.casaglia@unimib.it.

The Newsletter #17 has been edited by Elena dell'Agnese, Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (elena.dellagnese@unimib.it), with assistance of Virginie Mamadouh and Anna Casaglia.

