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# IGU COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

## Newsletter



CPG:

[www.igu-cpg.unimib.it/](http://www.igu-cpg.unimib.it/)

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*The Commission on Political Geography (CPG) of IGU-UGI aims at encouraging geographical research on these various dimensions of the connections between power, politics, and spaces, and at stimulating the exchange of findings and insights among political geographers from different countries. It is also focused on the analysis of the connections between political geographies (that is all the discursive praxis pertaining with the representation of the world in its political organization) and the making of the world itself.*

### Chair's Column - Political geography in the wake of a pandemic

Generally we publish our annual Newsletter at the beginning of the year. When I started thinking about this column in January, a Chinese PhD student of mine was back home for the Chinese New Year and reported being locked down instead of celebrating the New Year and a few weeks later being unable to fly back to the Netherlands. Since then the COVID-19 epidemic became a pandemic and a large proportion of the world population is grounded at home – across all inhabited continents.

International travel has been dramatically cut and academic conferences like most gatherings have been cancelled and postponed – or moved online. Today the American Association of Geographers (AAG) is about to open its first virtual annual conference. Paradoxically these online sessions might be the most inclusive ever with an affordable fee and no additional travel and accommodation costs, or visa requirements (even if access to stable and affordable internet is unequally distributed). The pandemic will surely bring about some rethinking of academic conferencing and travelling (although in geography we should not underestimate the importance of the visit to a site and local fieldtrips, most colleagues in neighbouring disciplines do not leave the blinded rooms of fancy conference centres or regular universities when they travel to other continents for an international conference). Webinars might be suitable for lectures, for panels, for team meetings working on a common project or a common publication; they are surely unsuited to encourage new encounters between strangers, especially between earlier career and older researchers. We'll need to be more creative. But for the time being this is a secondary matter, as the evolution of the pandemic and its human costs remain unknown.

The belated responses to the outbreak in Wuhan, after China recognized the outbreak as such, suggests that a lot of policy makers, in Western Europe especially, both the epidemiologic experts and the politicians responsible for public health measures, were unaware of the scope of globalization and the many networks linking China to Europe. It seems that they took the SARS epidemic of 2002-3 as a baseline, overlooking how much more integrated Eurasia had become. Likewise, the evolution of the epidemic in Europe has demonstrated how integrated the continent had actually become in terms of grassroots interactions (business trips, exchange students, city trips, ski holidays).

The political geographic dimensions of the pandemic, and the responses it has generated, will remain a research area for political geographers for a long time to come. State territories have become the default framework for organizing collective

quarantines, with hardened borders apparently easier to justify and to implement than the closure of specific cities, regions or provinces. More surprisingly from a public health perspective is the widely shared assumption that passports trump location: nationals are repatriated, no matter what, without much medical attention or any isolation measures. American students of mine, requested to go home immediately after President Trump's announcement of isolation of Europe on March 11, reported no medical check or even recommendation to observe self-quarantine on arrival in the US.

Those of us studying the European Union have been dazed by the apparent lack of coordination. To be sure, public health is a competence the Member States have jealously kept for themselves, despite enduring cooperation and participation in common agencies such as the European Medicine Agency that recently moved from London to Amsterdam due to Brexit and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Stockholm. Each Member State took its own measures (often contradictory ones with contradictory expert explanations) at different times (not depending much of the prevalence of the virus), and competed with each other to acquire missing masks, tests and medical equipment (since most production had been delocalized to China and managerial practices in health care have dramatically reduced stocks), and many closed their borders to non-essential movements--at least for people, if not for goods so as not to disrupt too much the logistics of food supply. Coordination was there in the form of ECB financing of emergency measures but deep disagreements about financial instruments (coronabonds as a new reiteration of Eurobonds vs. emergency aid plans) have been foregrounded. It is unlikely though that this will be the end of the EU, as the events on other continents have since shown similar differences between states and provinces in established federal states.

At the time of writing the impact on the large megalopolises of the global South is still unknown, but it is not difficult to imagine how dramatically the pandemic could evolve in overcrowded neighbourhoods and how deadly lock downs can be to those whose livelihood is so precarious that they have no option to distance themselves for a few days, let alone few weeks, and where states have no infrastructures to deal with the medical nor the economic effects of the pandemic. Unlike the familiar representation of the virus as a 'great equalizer' (Madonna, New York Governor Cuomo) because it is not sensitive to reputation, status or wealth of the bodies it infiltrates, the pandemic will increase inequalities between haves and have nots (access to health care, to welfare, to food, to support...), locally, nationally, globally.

We need to scrutinize the geopolitics of these responses: mask diplomacy, new maps of foes and friends, new relations between administrative layers, new roles for the WHO and other supranational instances, new roles between experts and politicians, ... Last but not least, a critical take is crucial when it comes to assessing political threats to democracy, the rule of law, privacy, human rights, or the implementation of emergency measures, as well as the hasty and booming deployment of Information and Communication Technologies to telework and to monitor the virus (and the human beings carrying it) through geocoding and mobile devices. Issues such as privacy, hacking, and authoritarian inclination abound, and again there are specific political geographies to each of these.

Finally in education we have seen an alienating rush towards remote teaching and 'carry on' that is conveying a message to our students that staying on track to collect

their credit points for the semester is more important than caring for people around them, reflecting on what is going on and learning from their own lived experience. And here too, we need to raise awareness for students from less privileged backgrounds and for academics working in precarious positions who will be more directly and deeply affected by the dramatic changes occurring in international enrollments and related austerity measures.

Now that the main 34<sup>th</sup> International Geographical Congress and the 2020 IGU Conference in Lecce have been postponed to 2021, we rely more than ever on the internet to maintain and foster fruitful relations among political geographers across the world. I wish you and yours all the best under these unique circumstances.

Keep safe, and sane.

Virginie Mamadouh  
CPG Co-Chair

## Past Events

**IGU Commission 'Geography of Governance' 2019 Annual Conference**  
**"New Challenges of Decentralization"**  
**Pécs, Hungary**  
**May 9-10, 2019**

Decentralisation has been one of the buzzwords in the neoliberal good governance public policy literature in the last decades. After the main decentralisation trend in the Western democracies in the seventies, developing and transitioning countries worldwide were advised to devolve most powers of public service delivery and local economic development. The aim of this workshop was to discuss the experience of these recent territorial reforms.

This conference addressed the many territorial reforms that have been implemented under the umbrella of principles of subsidiarity and decentralisation, supported and sponsored by the EU (cohesion funds) and other international organisations (OECD, World Bank, UN), and referring especially to regional competitiveness and the achievement of the Millennium Goals. Attention was devoted not only to the financial crisis in 2008 but also to the many negative experiences and even failed reforms that have fostered scepticism concerning decentralisation and rescaling.

**2019 EUGEO Conference**  
**Galway, Ireland**  
**May 15-18, 2019**

The 7th EUGEO Congress was held in conjunction with the 51st Conference of Irish Geographers, in Galway in May 2019. The theme for the 2019 conference was Re-Imagining Europe's Future Society and Landscapes. The theme focused on the centrality of the concepts of society and landscape within the Discipline of Geography and the importance of the relationship that exists between the physical and cultural landscape.

This conference offered participants the opportunity to reflect on and re-imagine futures within the geographical boundary of Europe.

**«Pensées émergentes en géographie politique et géopolitique »  
Journée doctorale de la Commission de géographie politique et de géopolitique  
du Comité National Français de Géographie (CNFG)  
Institut de Géographie, 191, rue Saint-Jacques,  
14 juin 2019**

A l'occasion cette première journée doctorale organisée par Amaël Cattaruzza, Sophie Hou et Kevin Limonier, huit doctorants ont pu présenter et discuter leur travail avec le comité scientifique constitué de géographes politiques français et étrangers. Leurs présentations portaient sur des thèmes très diversifiés de la géographie politique.

**Summer Program for Postgraduates on “The Belt and Road Initiative & Political Geography”  
Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China  
July 24 to August 3, 2019**

Co-hosted by the School of Geography and Planning, and the Graduate School in Sun Yat-Sen University, the aim of the program was to promote the development of political geography in China. Invited speakers from China and abroad included Professor Alexander Murphy, Professor Colin Flint, Professor Xiaobo Su, Professor Hong Zhu, Professor Fenglong Wang, Professor Yutian Liang, Professor Cansong Li, Professor Gengqi Huang, and Professor Junxi Qian. Professor and CPG Steering Committee member Yungang Liu was the lead organizer and chair of the event.

The forum included 61 outstanding young scholars and doctoral or masters students who were engaged in the study of political geography, geopolitics, and the Belt and Road initiative. Bringing together mature and young scholars from China and abroad, the forum exposed young researchers and students to fundamental ideas and concepts in political geography and geopolitics.





Participants in the Sun Yat-sen workshop last summer

### **“Rethinking Border Security in Asia”**

**Guangzhou, China**

**28-29 July 2019**

The Department of Geography, University of Oregon, and the School of Tourism Management, South China Normal University, with the support of the CPG, convened a conference on “Rethinking Border Security in Asia,” in Guangzhou, China, in July 2019. Papers were presented addressing the following issues:

- Territorial disputes;
- Cross-border migration;
- Illegal (informal) cross-border trade;
- Border control policies;
- Everyday border-crossing experience;
- Transnational regime for border security;
- Cross-border division of labor;
- Non-traditional Security and border control

### **International Conference on Local and Urban Governance: Trends, Challenges, and Innovations in a Globalizing World**

**University of Cape Verde, Cidade da Praia, Cape Verde**

**September 4-7, 2019**

The International Conference on Local and Urban Governance: trends, challenges and innovations in a globalizing world, was convened by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geography of Governance and organized in collaboration with the University of Cape Verde (UNICV). It was held in Cidade da Praia, Cape Verde, on September 4-7, 2019.

The Conference aimed to explore and to discuss the changes, challenges, and innovations confronting Local and Urban Governance worldwide in the context of the new global urban agendas. It was a forum for the discussion of the state-of-the-art research on local and urban governance, in the different regions of the world. Within this overall goal, the 2019 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance also aimed to provide the opportunity for comparisons between African municipalities and African cities as well as comparisons with those in other regions of the world, in particular in the Global South.

The Conference brought together researchers from academia, public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations, in an effort to present and debate their research on local and urban governance and to share knowledge, viewpoints, methods, research outcomes and policy ideas.

### **Wroclaw University Workshop**

**“Beyond identity: New venues for interdisciplinary research on identity”**

**Wroclaw, Poland**

**November 8-9, 2019**

Identity has been a contested concept in social sciences. On the one hand, there are some doubts whether the concept has much analytical value (Brubaker 2002), given its

broad meaning between constructivism (dynamic nature) and essentialism (fixed nature). While some scholars proclaim radical social construction of individual identity (e.g. Bauman's "liquid identity"), others point to fixed parameters of, for instance, national identity and the unparalleled power of identity-making entities such as states (Billig 1995).

Against this background, the workshop envisaged an interdisciplinary dialogue in form of a workshop among representatives of various disciplines including sociology, anthropology, political sciences, philosophy or psychology. The main aim of the workshop was to discuss insights from various disciplines into how individual and collective identities are formed, negotiated and fixed.

### **East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography (EARCAG) The 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Geopolitical Economy (GPE) of East Asian Developmentalism**

**November 26-28, 2019** (Workshop at Osaka City University, Japan)

**November 29 - December 1, 2019** (Post-Workshop Field Trip in Okinawa, Japan)

The 4<sup>th</sup> EARCAG-GPE workshop was held in Osaka, Japan under four main themes: Shifting state-territoriality and the reconstruction of the geopolitical economy in East Asia, De/Re(b)ordering processes for a post-Westphalian stage, Inter-island liminality as a new aspect of trans-local/border interactions, and The reconceptualization and transformation of East Asia in the context of China's rise. There were 31 general presentations in addition to four keynote/special lectures given by Anssi Passi (University of Oulu), James Sidaway (National University of Singapore), Chih-ming Wang (Academia Sinica, Taiwan), and Ibrahim Amir (Kurdish playwright). More than 40 scholars and grad students came from 13 countries/regions not only in East Asia but also across the world. After the three-day intensive discussion on the workshop themes, another three-day field trip was organized in the Okinawa Island to see how the island has been militarized by US military presence since the end of WWII and how the recent processes of de/re-militarization are taking place. The workshop was kindly co-sponsored by the IGU-CPG.



A session in the workshop (Nov. 27, 2019)

## Future Events (many postponed or cancelled)

### IGU/CPG Events

#### IGU Thematic Conference

#### **“Heritage Geographies: Politics Uses, and Governance of the Past”**

**Lecce, Italy**

**~~May 29-31, 2020~~ [Postponed until May 26-28, 2021]**

Following the 2005 Faro Convention “Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.”

This conference will examine the political and governance dimensions of cultural heritage. Topics to be addressed include sustainable approaches to heritage governance, how to promote community involvement in heritage debates, heritage and the information society, heritage and knowledge, and the relationship between heritage and nationalism.

The co-chairs of IGU will participate in this conference, leading Commission on Political Geography sessions on “Heritage and nationalism” (Alec Murphy) and Language (as) Heritage (in) Place: Political geographies of linguistic heritage geographies (Virginie Mamadouh)

#### **IGU 34<sup>th</sup> International Geographical Congress**

**Istanbul, Turkey**

**~~17-21 August 2020~~ [Postponed until August 16-20, 2021]**

This year’s Congress will be held in Istanbul, a crossroads of culture with its unique and enchanting location spreading across two continents, and will feature sessions of the Commission on Political Geography on the following subjects:

- Geopolitics and Trade
- Geopolitics of the Datasphere-Part 1: The Politics of Data
- Geopolitics of the Datasphere-Part 2: Mapping the Routes of the Internet: Data, Topologies, Power
- Refugee Reception and the Importance of the Local
- Resources, Space and Power: How do Resources Produce Territories?
- Rethinking the Migration-Security Nexus: Actors, Practices, Knowledges
- Trans-Border Geopolitics in the East-China-Sea Region
- Bridging Differences: East, west, seas, and Mediterranean worlds
- Totalitarianism in the Researches of Political and Historical Geography: New Problems and Approaches.



## Other Future Events

### **Association for Borderlands Studies – 2020 Annual Conference**

**Portland, Oregon, USA**

**~~April 1-4, 2020~~ [Cancelled, with some virtual sessions organized]**

In contrast to the complexity and differentiation suggested by much recent academic literature, borders continue to be conceived of and represented by mainstream politics and the media in an overly simplistic way. Much recent political and public debate has regressed into nationalistic, state-centric thinking and populist rhetoric, reducing the idea of borders to be mere protective frontlines. We seek to promote a more comprehensive understanding of bordering processes and the major challenges affecting changing scenarios of globalised contemporaneity. This implies that more attention should be given to how theoretical innovations can be connected to empirical findings and can be of relevance to policy communities. Border research should transcend boundaries between scholarly, applied, public, and activist categories, creating something that redefines practice.

The territorialisation of populist discourses and the resurgence of spatial and nationalist identities are creating new kinds of cleavages, while borders have become symbolic and concrete resources for populist political agendas. Spatially exclusionary policies are redefining relations between democracy and space, while narratives about place and the exclusion of others accentuate anxieties and ontological insecurities.

With this call, we draw attention to the rise of populist politics; populism and neo-nationalism as (re)bordering; and the role of populism in activating tensions surrounding borders and the meaning of sovereignty, contested historical memory, and migration. With an increasing securitisation of mobility and bodies, the study of borders has become inseparable from questions of xenophobia, fear, exclusion and inequality – a somewhat radical shift from the idea that national borders express alternatives, multiple sovereignties, political recognition and freedom from externally imposed constraints.

Today, an increasingly tense geopolitical climate has overshadowed much of the innovative conceptual (re-)framing of borders as social, political, economic and cultural spaces. Neo-nationalism, populism, xenophobia, as well as border violence, appear to refute the potential of borders to connect but they can also draw attention to the fact that many crucial questions about borders and border-making remain unanswered. A more nuanced and critical understanding of borders as both challenge and resource is urgently needed in order to better understand and interpret the broad socio-political transformations taking place in the world. We believe that border scholarship can provide tools to analyse and understand xenophobia, exclusion, and inequality by fragmenting territorial aspects of political radicalization across the world and by exposing the political use of borders for promoting and advancing exclusionary and defensive policies.

For more information, please see: <http://www.WSSAweb.com/sections>

**33rd Annual PGSG Preconference to the 2020 AAG Annual Meeting  
Boulder, Colorado, USA  
~~April 5, 2020~~ [Cancelled]**

Regions are intrinsically bounded territories. However, they are increasingly exposed to global forces and flows that undermine their borders. Therefore, it is necessary to push regions beyond their limits, which can be understood as physical, but also as mental and disciplinary. In this sense, regions have to be re-examined. The possibilities are multiple, including, among others: regions as scenarios for resilience and global competition; regions as social and political constructions permanently adapted to trans-scale dynamics; and regions as arenas for cooperation and inclusion.

**American Association of Geographers (AAG) 2020 Annual Meeting  
Denver, Colorado, USA  
~~April 6-10, 2020~~ [Cancelled with some virtual sessions organized]**

The Annual Meeting of the AAG is quite possibly the largest geography conference in the world, with over 8,500 geographers converging from the U.S., Canada, and nearly 60 other countries in a typical year. With thousands of different papers and presentations scheduled throughout the conference, you'll find no shortage of activities reflecting your specific interests within the field of geography. The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency – Denver at Colorado Convention Center and the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Downtown Denver, Colorado.

For more information: <https://www2.aag.org/aagannualmeeting/>

**Quelle place pour les cartes dans l'analyse politique de l'espace?  
Campus Condorcet (8, cours des Humanités, Aubervilliers) France  
12 juin 2020 [Decision pending on postponement until the fall]**

Comité d'organisation : Sophie Hou (Paris 1) Audrey Sérandour (Paris 1) Amaël Cattaruzza (Paris 8), Xavier Aurégan (Université catholique de Lille)  
Info et candidature (jusqu'au 30 mars 2020: [sophie.hou.cr@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.hou.cr@gmail.com) and [audrey.serandour@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:audrey.serandour@univ-paris1.fr))

**RGS-IBG Annual International Conference at the Royal Geographic Society  
“Borders, borderlands, and bordering”  
London, England  
September 1-4, 2020 [Decision pending on cancelation or moving online]**

Creating, marking, enforcing, transgressing, blurring and dismantling borders of all kinds are ceaseless, pervasive processes across time and space. A glance at a political map of the world reveals geography's historical complicity in reinforcing a sense of a bordered world within which discrete cultures, 'natural' histories and landscapes are contained, and made symbolically manifest.

A critical exploration of borders and bordering practices is timely and salient. From the building of a new Mexico-US wall, the collection of bio-metric data in India, the establishment and dismantling of economic trade barriers and the creation of national parks that delimit human and non-human mobility, borders continue to order, classify

and categorise ideas, identities, people, places, things, landscapes and the non-human. Borders are constituted in multiple ways: geological stratifications, different ecosystems, landscapes, climate change and epochs invoke physical and temporal demarcations. And, borders are multi-scalar, from the granular and the body to planetary boundaries.

Bordering processes are embedded in socio-spatial and political regimes that put borders to work, re-creating, shifting and altering them. Through a wide array of material, digital and virtual technologies, bordering practices can divide, exclude, control, govern and protect. Yet, despite policing practices and divisions, borders can be transgressed. Migrants breach national borders, as do plants and animals, and the movement and circulation of water and air render borders permeable. Interdisciplinary endeavours equally reveal academic silos to be flexible, fluid, contested and ephemeral. Accordingly, thinking through, and displacing, borders can assist in challenging dualistic conceptions that divide humans from non-humans, the rural from the urban, land from sea and insiders from outsiders, amongst other socially constructed dualities.

For more information: <https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference>

**The 17th 'Lodz' International Political Geography Conference  
Rivers in the Lives of Nations in their Economy and Politics  
Kostrzyn nad Odrą/Frankfurt (Oder) (Poland/Germany)  
September 16–18, 2020**

The conference organizers intend to discuss the following issues:

- a river as a political, ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural border,
- a river in geographical space - an axis or a barrier?
- the economic role of rivers,
- the social role of rivers,
- a river as a catalyst for co-operation.

Due to the theme of the conference it will be conducted on the both banks of the border river Odra in Kostrzyn nad Odrą (Hotel Bastion, ul. Graniczna 15) and at the Viadrina European University in Frankfurt (Oder) (Germany).

Deadline for abstract: 30 September 2020

Organizer: Prof. Marek Sobczyński, University of Lodz, Department of Political and Historical Geography and Regional Studies, 90-142 Łódź, ul. Kopcińskiego 31, Poland  
e-mail: [geopol@geo.uni.lodz.pl](mailto:geopol@geo.uni.lodz.pl)

**“Hospitalities, Hostilities: Narratives and Representations”  
Grenoble Alpes University, France  
November 19-20, 2020**

In the context of transnational migrations of populations today, and as millions of people leave their homelands and their homes for reasons of war, economy, religion, politics or climate change, this international conference aims at unravelling and making sense of the practices and the representations of hospitality in our time and in the past.

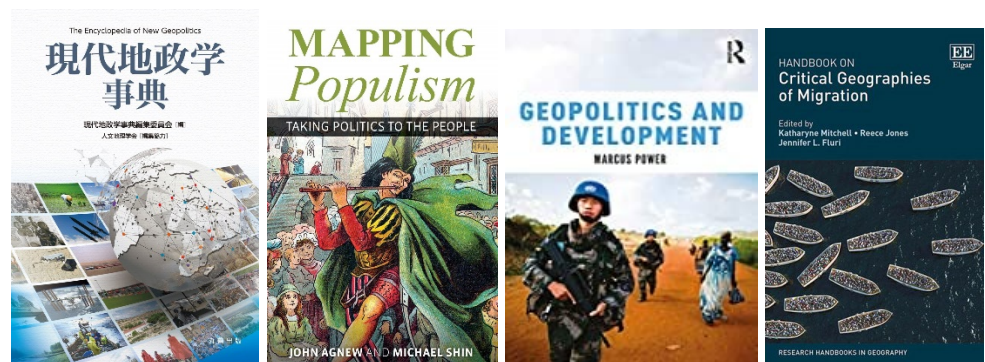
Etymologically, the word ‘hospitality’ shares the same root as the word ‘host’, which refers as much to the hosting party as to the guests. The implicit semantic reciprocity ought therefore to be addressed in the light of practices, perceptions and

representations of hospitality: what does it mean to experience hospitality, whether as in 'being hospitable' or as in 'being hosted'? As in many languages, 'Hospitality' and 'host' also share a common etymology with 'hostility'. This close parentage also ought to be questioned, with hostility as the seemingly inseparable shadow of hospitality.

Finally, the idea of unconditional hospitality to fellow humans also encompasses ecocritical issues: how is home-making to take place in a context of climate change? How can humans contribute to making the world a hospitable place to live in, decentring the relationship from a host-to-host binary relationship to a wider ecological perspective?

For more information: <http://saesfrance.org/19-20-november-2020-hospitalities-hostilities-narratives-and-representations-international-conference-grenoble-alpes-university/>

## Publications



### *The Encyclopedia of New Geopolitics (in Japanese)*

Editorial Board of The Encyclopedia of New Geopolitics/Takashi Yamazaki, ed. | Maruzen Publishing | 2020

There have been several peaks in the publication of books on geopolitics in Japan. The very first peak appeared in the 1940s and the second one in the early 1980s. The current peak which emerged after 2001 is the highest in number and duration. These peaks are corresponding to an increase in public concerns about the possibility that Japan may be involved in war as recognized from the results of the national public opinion surveys. Books on geopolitics published now in Japan are not very academic and targeting the general public to explain world politics from a realist (even nationalist) perspective. In this sense, many of these books can be categorized as works in neo-classical and/or popular geopolitics. Responding to these trends and considering them problematic for understanding the complexity of world politics, some Japanese political geographers and political scientists initiated a project to publish a new encyclopedia of geopolitics from an academic and critical point of view. Although John O'Loughlin's *Dictionary of Geopolitics* was translated into Japanese in 2000, this encyclopedia with more than 300 entries and 900 pages is the very first work in Japan to comprehensively illustrate the history, development, critical reflection, and future prospect of geopolitics. To overcome state-centric tendencies in geopolitical writings, many entries are written by non-Japanese authors. Some of the IGU-CPG colleagues have contributed to the encyclopedia.

***Mapping Populism***

John Agnew and Michael Shin | Rowman &amp; Littlefield | 2019

Brexit. Trump. LePen. The Five Star Movement. The recent success of populist movements and politicians is extraordinary, though the rise of populism is understandable in light of increasing political polarization, disappointing politicians, and exhausting election campaigns. With the future trajectory of democracy uncertain, two important questions remain unanswered. How did we get here? And why did we get here? Exploring how and why populism succeeded, John Agnew and Michael Shin consider the reasons for the Brexit vote, who voted—and who did not vote—for Donald Trump and Marine Le Pen, and the rise of an Italian populist government. Through comparative geographical analyses, the authors literally and figuratively map the rise of populism across the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Italy. Geography tells us who the people are who have supported populism and the limits and possibilities of its claim to represent all of “the people,” wherever they are. Organized around recurring central themes of turnout, leadership, and media, and using compelling maps, their book encourages thought and discussion on an increasingly important topic—and on the future of democracy itself.

— *Publisher****Geopolitics and Development***

Marcus Power | Cornell University Press | 2019

Geopolitics and Development examines the historical emergence of development as a form of governmentality, from the end of empire to the Cold War and the War on Terror. It illustrates the various ways in which the meanings and relations of development as a discourse, an apparatus and an aspiration, have been geopolitically imagined and enframed.

The book traces some of the multiple historical associations between development and diplomacy and seeks to underline the centrality of questions of territory, security, statehood and sovereignty to the pursuit of development, along with its enrolment in various (b)ordering practices. In making a case for greater attention to the evolving nexus between geopolitics and development and with particular reference to Africa, the book explores the historical and contemporary geopolitics of foreign aid, the interconnections between development and counterinsurgency, the role of the state and social movements in (re)imagining development, the rise of (re)emerging donors like China, India and Brazil, and the growing significance of South–South flows of investment, trade and development cooperation. Drawing on post-colonial and postdevelopment approaches and on some of the author’s own original empirical research, this is an essential, critical and interdisciplinary analysis of the complex and dynamic political geographies of global development.

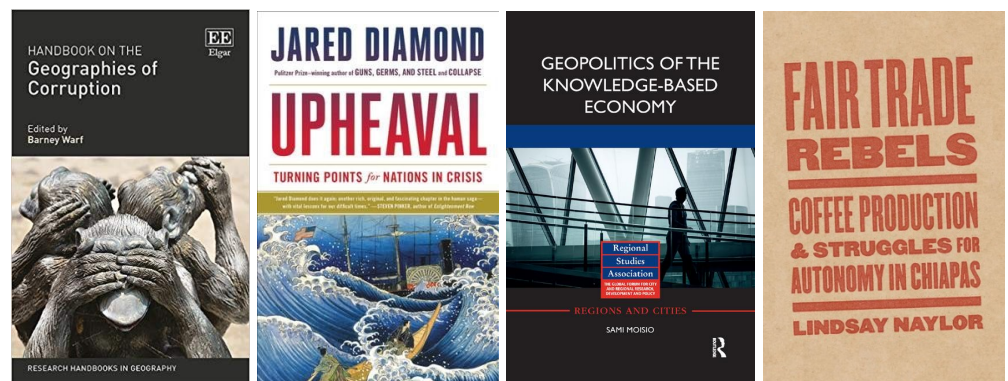
Primarily intended for scholars and post-graduate students in development studies, human geography, African studies and international relations, this book provides an engaging, invaluable and up-to-date resource for making sense of the complex entanglement between geopolitics and development, past and present. — *Publisher*

***Handbook on Critical Geographies of Migration***

Katharyne Mitchell, Reece Jones, Jennifer L. Fluri | Edward Elgar Publishing | 2019



Border walls, shipwrecks in the Mediterranean, separated families at the border, island detention camps: migration is at the centre of contemporary political and academic debates. This ground-breaking Handbook offers an exciting and original analysis of critical research on themes such as these, drawing on cutting-edge theories from an interdisciplinary and international group of leading scholars. With a focus on spatial analysis and geographical context, this volume highlights a range of theoretical, methodological and regional approaches to migration research, while remaining attuned to the underlying politics that bring critical scholars together. Divided into six thematic sections, including new areas in critical migration research, the book covers the key questions galvanizing migration scholars today, such as issues surrounding refugees and border militarization. Each chapter explores new themes, expanding on core theories to convey fresh insight to contemporary research. A key resource for migration, refugee and border studies this Handbook provides an in-depth analysis of the topic, covering a vast array of research ideas with a specific focus on the geographical aspects of migration. Scholars working on migration, refugees, asylum, transnationalism, humanitarianism and borders will find this an invaluable read. — *Publisher*



### *Handbook on Geographies of Corruption*

Barney Warf (ed.) | Edward Elgar Publishing | 2018

The Handbook on the Geographies of Corruption offers a comprehensive overview of how corruption varies across the globe. It explores the immense range of corruption among countries, and how this reflects levels of wealth, the centralization of power, colonial legacies, and different national cultures. Barney Warf presents an original and interdisciplinary collection of chapters from established researchers and leading academics that examine corruption from a spatial perspective. — *Publisher*

***Upheaval: Turning Points for Nations in Crisis***

Jared Diamond | Little, Brown and Company | 2019

In his international bestsellers *Guns, Germs and Steel* and *Collapse*, Jared Diamond transformed our understanding of what makes civilizations rise and fall. Now, in his third book in this monumental trilogy, he reveals how successful nations recover from crises while adopting selective changes -- a coping mechanism more commonly associated with individuals recovering from personal crises.

Diamond compares how six countries have survived recent upheavals -- ranging from the forced opening of Japan by U.S. Commodore Perry's fleet, to the Soviet Union's attack on Finland, to a murderous coup or countercoup in Chile and Indonesia, to the transformations of Germany and Austria after World War Two. Because Diamond has lived and spoken the language in five of these six countries, he can present gut-wrenching histories experienced firsthand. These nations coped, to varying degrees, through mechanisms such as acknowledgment of responsibility, painfully honest self-appraisal, and learning from models of other nations. Looking to the future, Diamond examines whether the United States, Japan, and the whole world are successfully coping with the grave crises they currently face. Can we learn from lessons of the past?

Adding a psychological dimension to the in-depth history, geography, biology, and anthropology that mark all of Diamond's books, *Upheaval* reveals factors influencing how both whole nations and individual people can respond to big challenges. The result is a book epic in scope, but also his most personal yet. — *Publisher*

***Geopolitics of the Knowledge-Based Economy***

Sami Moisio | Routledge | 2018

We live in the era of the knowledge-based economy, and this has major implications for the ways in which states, cities and even supranational political units are spatially planned, governed and developed. In this book, Sami Moisio delves deeply into the links between the knowledge-based economy and geopolitics, examining a wide range of themes, including city geopolitics and the university as a geopolitical site. Overall, this work shows that knowledge-based "economization" can be understood as a geopolitical process that produces territories of wealth, security, power and belonging.

This book will prove enlightening to students, researchers and policymakers in the fields of human geography, urban studies, spatial planning, political science and international relations.

— *Publisher****Fair Trade Rebels: Coffee Production and Struggles for Autonomy in Chiapas***

Lindsay Naylor | University of Minnesota Press | 2019

Is fair trade really fair? Who is it for, and who gets to decide? Fair Trade Rebels addresses such questions in a new way by shifting the focus from the abstract concept of fair trade—and whether it is “working”—to the perspectives of small farmers. It examines the everyday experiences of resistance and agricultural practice among the campesinos/as of Chiapas, Mexico, who struggle for dignified livelihoods in self-

declared autonomous communities in the highlands, confronting inequalities locally in what is really a global corporate agricultural chain.

Based on extensive fieldwork, *Fair Trade Rebels* draws on stories from Chiapas that have emerged from the farmers' interaction with both the fair-trade–certified marketplace and state violence. Here Lindsay Naylor discusses the racialized and historical backdrop of coffee production and rebel autonomy in the highlands, underscores the divergence of movements for fairer trade and the so-called alternative certified market, traces the network of such movements from the highlands and into the United States, and evaluates existing food sovereignty and diverse economic exchanges.

Putting decolonial thinking in conversation with diverse economies theory, *Fair Trade Rebels* evaluates fair trade not by the measure of its success or failure but through a unique, place-based approach that expands our understanding of the relationship between fair trade, autonomy, and economic development. — *Publisher*



### ***Empire's Labor: The Global Army that Supports U.S. Wars***

Adam Moore | Cornell University Press | 2019

In a dramatic unveiling of the little-known world of contracted military logistics, Adam Moore examines the lives of the global army of laborers who support US overseas wars. *Empire's Labor* brings us the experience of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who perform jobs such as truck drivers and administrative assistants at bases located in warzones in the Middle East and Africa. He highlights the changes the US military has undergone since the Vietnam War, when the ratio of contractors to uniformed personnel was roughly 1:6. In Afghanistan it has been as high as 4:1. This growth in logistics contracting represents a fundamental change in how the US fights wars, with the military now dependent on a huge pool of contractors recruited from around the world. It also, Moore demonstrates, has social, economic, and political implications that extend well beyond the battlefields. — *Publisher*

***War and the City Urban Geopolitics in Lebanon***

Sara Fregonese | I.B. Tauris | 2019

War and the City examines the geopolitical significance of the Lebanese Civil War through a micro-level exploration of how the urban landscape of Beirut was transformed by the conflict. Focusing on the initial phase of the war in 1975 and 1976, the volume also draws significant parallels with more recent occurrences of internecine conflict and with the historical legacies of Lebanon's colonial past. While most scholarship has thus far focused on post-war reconstruction of the city, the initial process of destruction has been neglected. This volume thus moves away from formal macro-level geopolitical analysis, to propose instead an exploration of the urban nature of conflict through its spaces, infrastructures, bodies and materialities. The book utilizes urban viewpoints in order to highlight the nature of sovereignty in Lebanon and how it is inscribed on the urban landscape. War and the City presents a view of geopolitics as not only shaping narratives of international relations, but as crucially reshaping the space of cities. — *Publisher*

***Pour une géographie du pouvoir (new edition of a seminal book)***

Claude Raffestin (published in 1980 and translated in many languages but not yet in English) preface by Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary (Université Grenoble Alpes)|ENS Éditions|2019

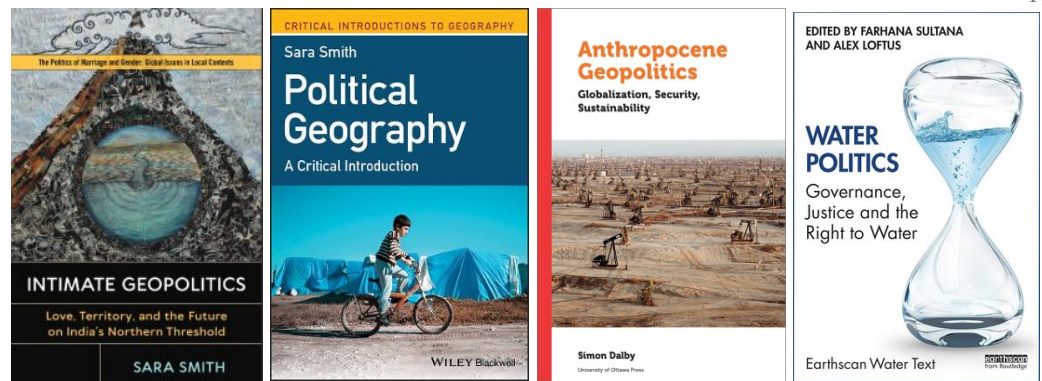
Rééditer *Pour une géographie du pouvoir* près de quarante ans après sa publication initiale en 1980 constitue une forme de manifeste, tant la réception de ce livre a été contrastée : décrié par ses pairs au moment de sa sortie, reconnu aujourd'hui par Claude Raffestin lui-même comme « hétérodoxe », il s'agit d'un ouvrage qui continue de marquer durablement ses lecteurs. S'il reste d'une actualité si vive aujourd'hui, c'est parce qu'il aurait pu s'intituler *Pour une géographie du territoire*, notion centrale dans la géographie contemporaine. Il définit en effet la territorialité comme médiation spatiale des rapports sociaux, un apport majeur pour toutes les sciences sociales. Proposant de mettre en avant l'espace d'autonomie qui existe dans la perception et la construction d'une relation de pouvoir, l'ouvrage exprime une géographie engagée qui pose les bases de la géopolitique critique. Par la centralité de son analyse relationnelle, son examen des ressources et des flux, il ouvre des pistes vers une écologie politique alors inédite. — *Publisher*

***Introduction à la géopolitique***

Amaël Cattaruzza (avec la collaboration de Kevin Limonier) | Armand Colin | 2019

Si la géopolitique est devenue un terme à la mode et constitue aujourd'hui une grille de lecture du monde indispensable, elle désigne avant tout un savoir géographique : l'étude de l'espace politique et de ses enjeux. Elle repose ainsi sur des méthodes et des notions précises (acteurs, territoires, rivalités de pouvoir) qui permettent d'éclairer les grandes thématiques contemporaines (frontières, identités, guerres, environnement, cyberspace). Cet ouvrage propose l'ensemble des connaissances nécessaires pour s'initier au raisonnement géopolitique. — *Publisher*





***Intimate Geopolitics: Love, Territory, and the Future on India's Northern Threshold***

Sara Smith | Rutgers University Press | 2020

*Intimate Geopolitics* begins with a love story set in the Himalayan region of Ladakh, in India's Jammu and Kashmir State, but this is also a story about territory, and the ways that love, marriage, and young people are caught up in contemporary global processes. In Ladakh, children grow up to adopt a religious identity in part to be counted in the census, and to vote in elections. Religion, population, and voting blocs are implicitly tied to territorial sovereignty and marriage across religious boundaries becomes a geopolitical problem in an area that seeks to define insiders and outsiders in relation to borders and national identity. This book populates territory, a conventionally abstract rendering of space, with the stories of those who live through territorial struggle at marriage and birth ceremonies, in the kitchen and in the bazaar, in heartbreak and in joy. *Intimate Geopolitics* argues for the incorporation of the role of time – temporality – into our understanding of territory. — *Publisher*

***Political Geography: A Critical Introduction***

Sara Smith | John Wiley & Sons | 2020

*Political Geography: A Critical Introduction* helps students understand how power is related to space, place, and territory, illustrating how everyday life and the world of global conflict and nation-states are inextricably intertwined. This timely, engaging textbook weaves critical, postcolonial, and feminist narratives throughout its exploration of key concepts in the discipline. Accessible to students new to the field, this text offers critical approaches to political geography—including questions of gender, sexuality, race, and difference—and explains central political concepts such as citizenship, security, and territory in a geographic context. Case studies incorporate methodologies that illustrate how political geographers perform research, enabling students to develop a well-rounded critical approach rather than merely focusing on results. Chapters cover topics including the role of nationalism in shaping allegiances, the spatial aspects of social movements and urban politics, the relationship between international relations and security, the effects of non-human actors in politics, and more. — *Publisher*

***Anthropocene Geopolitics: Globalization, Security, Sustainability***

Simon Dalby | University of Ottawa Press. | 2019



We now find ourselves in a new geological age: the Anthropocene. The climate is changing and species are disappearing at a rate not seen since Earth's major extinctions. The rapid, large-scale changes caused by fossil-fuel powered globalization increasingly threaten societies in new, unforeseen ways. But most security policies continue to be built on notions that look back-ward to a time when geopolitical threats derived mainly from the rivalries of states with fixed boundaries. Instead, Anthropocene Geopolitics shows that security policy must look forward to quickly shape a sustainable world no longer dependent on fossil fuels. A future of long-term peace and geopolitical security depends on keeping the earth in conditions roughly similar to those we have known throughout history. Minimizing disruptions that would further put civilization at risk of extinction urgently requires policies that reflect new Anthropocene "planetary boundaries." — *Publisher*

***Water Politics Governance, Justice and the Right to Water***

Farhana Sultana & Alex Loftus, eds. | Routledge | 2019

This book broadens existing discussions on the right to water in order to shed critical light on the pathways, pitfalls, prospects, and constraints that exist in achieving global goals, as well as advancing debates around water governance and water justice. The book shows how both discourses and struggles around the right to water have opened new perspectives, and possibilities in water governance, fostering new collective and moral claims for water justice, while effecting changes in laws and policies around the world. Chapters in the book illustrate the novel ways in which the right to water has been taken up in locations drawn globally, highlighting the material politics that are enabled and negotiated through this framework in order to address ongoing water insecurities. This book reflects the urgent need to take stock of debates in light of new concerns around post-neoliberal political developments, the challenges of the Anthropocene and climate change, the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the mobilizations around the right to water in the global North. — *Publisher*



**Critical Geopolitics and Regional (Re)Configurations: Interregionalism and Transnationalism Between Latin America and Europe**

Heriberto Cairo & Breno Bringel, eds. | Routledge. | 2019

This book seeks to develop our understanding of the contemporary geopolitical reconfigurations of two regions of the world system with high cultural affinity and traditional close relations: Latin America and Europe. Relations between Latin

America and Europe have been interpreted generally in the social sciences as synonyms of interstate relations. However, although States remain the most important actor in the geopolitical scene, they have been deeply reconfigured in recent decades, impacted by transnational dynamics, politics and spaces. This book highlights interregional relations and transnational dynamics between Latin America and Europe from a critical geopolitics perspective, promoting a new look for interregional relations which encompasses international cooperation and development, global policies, borders, inequalities and social movements. It brings attention to the relevance of interregionalism in the current geopolitical reconfiguration of the world system, but also argues for systematic inclusion of relevant new social actors and imaginaries in this traditional sphere of states. These social actors, particularly social movements and practices of contestation, are developing not only "international" bonds but a new "transnational" field, where networks defy traditional territorial orders. — *Publisher*

***Human Geopolitics: States, Emigrants, and the Rise of Diaspora Institutions***

Alan Gamlen | Routledge | 2019

Human geopolitics, the competition for population rather than territory, is an essential but weakly understood dimension of world politics today. Such competition has preceded violent conflict throughout history, but has been muted since the Treaties of Westphalia laid the territorial foundations of the modern international system in the mid-seventeenth century. Today, however, human geopolitics is being resurrected in unanticipated ways, as governments are enabled and encouraged to engage their emigrant diasporas. How and why is this happening? Until now these questions have been difficult to answer. The majority of research attention has focused on questions of immigration policy in a handful of wealthy migrant destination countries, largely ignoring the emigration policies that preoccupy the worlds many migrant origin states. This book addresses that research imbalance, by focusing on the overlooked sending side of migration policy. It calls for the development of stronger guiding principles and evaluation frameworks to govern new state-diaspora relations in an era of unprecedented global interdependence. — *Publisher*

***European External Action: The Making of EU Diplomacy in Kenya***

Veit Bachmann | Routledge | 2018

European External Action provides a critical assessment of the practice of EU diplomacy in a key site of Africa-European relations and the global development industry - the Kenyan capital of Nairobi. It analyses how the EU positions itself through its newly established diplomatic corps, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and how it is perceived as a collective geopolitical actor by its external cooperation partners. Going beyond existing studies on EU policy making in Brussels and African-European relations more generally, this book explores in a novel way the conduct of external relations and perceptions of the EU - abroad. Based on institutional ethnography within the EU Delegation in Nairobi and research affiliation with the University of Nairobi, as well as interviews with leading individuals of Kenyan-European interaction, it analyses the practices, processes and perceptions through which EU diplomacy is enacted and realised in a strategic node of global North-South relations. In light of the EU's claim as a key partner for developing countries and its ambition to be a major player in global politics, European External Action thereby speaks not only to wider debates on the EU's role as a global and

development actor, but also provides new insights into the internal dynamics and the making of external agency in and through EU diplomacy. — *Publisher*

***Bon voyage. Per una geografia critica del turismo***

Elena Dell'Agnese | UTET | 2018

Ha ancora senso parlare oggi di «turismo alternativo»? Che cosa si intende per turismo sostenibile? Ha ancora un significato, se mai lo ha avuto, la vecchia distinzione fra turista e viaggiatore? O non sarebbe forse più opportuno ripristinare la classica contrapposizione fra viaggio (anche se concepito e organizzato in modo turistico) e villeggiatura (nel senso di vacanza, visto che si può andare in vacanza anche a molte migliaia di chilometri da casa)? E come si possono evitare le crescenti tensioni e le manifestazioni di protesta da parte dei residenti delle destinazioni più frequentate nei confronti dei turisti? Dare una risposta a interrogativi come questi, e ad altri che si aprono nel corso della lettura, è l'obiettivo di questo volume, dove il turismo viene affrontato da un punto di vista «critico». Questo non significa «parlar male» del turismo, come avviene in molti studi mainstream, per i quali rappresentare il turismo in termini negativi pare costituire un «mito fondatore». Significa, al contrario, dare alla ricerca sul turismo un approccio etico, per fare del turismo uno strumento rivolto a perseguire la giustizia sociale e la coesione territoriale. — *Publisher*

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