



# IGU COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

**NEWSLETTER 17, October 2013**

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## CHAIR'S COLUMN

I have recently had the chance to re-read a note, written in 2009 by John O' Loughlin in the section dedicated by *Progress in Human Geography* to "Textbooks that moved generation". Commenting on a textbook published at the end of the 1960s, which indeed represented, by then, a sort of launching pad for anyone who started teaching Political Geography, John O' Loughlin said that he was struck, at the time, by the book being "an anachronism". And he added: "it did not seem to recognize the social upheavals and political turmoil of the American society of the mid-late Sixties".

My point here is that such an accusation, far from being suitable just for that textbook, could be, more or less, considered appropriate still today for the discipline at large. Of course, political geography is no more a field, "marginalized in the geographic community", and being a political geographer does not request the "combination of ignorance, naiveté, bravado, and rebelliousness", which at the time had pushed John O' Loughlin to choose it. On the contrary, political geography is by now an established and respected academic field, enriched by important journals and book series and publications, and John O' Loughlin, far from being as he describes himself forty years ago, is an acclaimed geographer and receives the 2012 AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honors for the career at the Annual Meeting of Los Angeles 2013 (see [http://www.aag.org/cs/news\\_detail?pressrelease.id=1639](http://www.aag.org/cs/news_detail?pressrelease.id=1639)). Outside the Anglophone world, both in Latin America and in Europe, political geography is revitalized too. And big groups of researchers, belonging to many different universities scattered from Israel to Moscow, are participating to well-built research projects funded by The EU/7 framework, and devoted to the analysis of European borders and borderscapes (see <http://www.euborderregions.eu/en> and <http://www.euborderscapes.eu/>). Given the excellent number of sessions and of presentations offered in the Kyoto Regional Conference in 2013 (see Takashi Yamazaki's report, hereunder), by Asian researchers, we can also add that the season is ripe for political geography in Japan, and in Asia as well.

More, seminars and conferences are proliferating, both connected to geographical organizations or specific associations (as the Association for borderland studies, ABS <http://www.absborderlands.org/>, whose traditional focus on the US-Mexico border has been extended to a worldwide coverage, or the mostly anthropological-African focused African Border Research Network Aborne <http://www.aborne.org>, the Irish based Centre for International Borders Research <http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforInternationalBordersResearch/>, the highly professional International Boundaries Research Unit, IBRU, based in Durham, UK <https://www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/9>), or to networks of researchers (as the twelve conferences organized by the long standing network

Border Regions in Transition, BRIT, or the three Borderscapes seminars, organized in Italy, in collaboration with this Commission).

Political geography is now blossoming and thriving. It is also dialoguing with other disciplines. A part from the “usual” exchanges with International Relations and Political Science (see, in this case, Research Committee 15, Political and Cultural Geography, within IPSA), Political Geography is now having scientific conversations with the less obvious disciplines of Political Philosophy (see the report on the Border Crossing Seminar organized in Milan, hereunder), Anthropology (see the Aborne Annual Conferences), Cultural Studies and even Comparative Literatures (see the 2012 Border Aesthetics Conference in Tromsø). More, contemporary Political Geography well interconnects with other geographical subdisciplines, such as Historical Geography or Cultural Geography, with other geographical perspectives, such as Critical Geography or Gender Studies, with innovative research methodologies and attitudes, such as action-research, participatory cartography and so on. Most importantly, today it would be quite difficult to agree with the famous Ron Johnston’s comment about the Political geography of the 1980s (“a political geography without the political”), because the subdiscipline in the last decades has been opening its interests to the various connections of space and power, and has learned to take into account not only the “Politics” with a capital P (that is, the so called formal politics), but also the “political” of every day life; this also because it has started taking a political stance towards many difficult subjects, from environmental security, to indigenous issues, to social movements. All the same, for the discipline, the danger of being a sort of “anachronism” is still lingering around. Not only because we all are, more or less, obsessed by certain topics (like state boundaries and territorial borders, for instance), while we disregard other kinds of connections between space and politics. Instead, and this is in my opinion a much more dangerous trend, because we risk to overlook the power exerted on formal politics by non State actors. For instance the connections between the 2008 crisis and the location of sovereignty, and the political role of credit-rating agencies have been investigated by few Political Geographers, a part from John Agnew (who, in an article wrote that: “No longer can the political be seen as uniquely deriving from states or from societies defined in national-state forms. Rather, the spatial boundaries governing states themselves are no longer the national ones. They are profoundly the boundaries defined by the investment and regulatory activities of private/public businesses, pension funds, banks, international law firms, standard setting, and credit-rating agencies. Even as the economic crisis of 2008 could be seen as calling the roles of all of these into question, they have, if anything, emerged from the crisis more strongly entrenched than they entered it”) But other politically relevant aspects are still absent from the scene. Again, the involvement of Political Geographers in this perspective is quite limited, a part from a few French and Latin American researchers, while in Italy only a

very small number of researchers is working on eco-mafias and on the illegal economy of camorra. Apparently, Political Geography has learned to recognize “the social upheavals and the political turmoil” of its time but it is still quite inattentive to the role played, both in formal Politics and in everyday politics, by non State actors.

Elena dell’Agnese

## PAST EVENTS

### **Report and comments on the Igu Regional Conference, in Kyoto, and on the Post-Conference Fieldtrip, written by the organizer Takashi Yamazaki and some participants**

#### **REPORT: The 2013 IGU Kyoto Regional Conference.**

**The paper sessions and the field trip for the Commission on Political Geography** (by

Takashi Yamazaki, CPG Steering Committee Member

KRC Japanese Liaison for CPG; Vice Chair of the KRC Commission Committee)

The **IGU Kyoto Regional Conference** (KRC) was held in the Kyoto International Conference Center, Kyoto, Japan from August 4th to 9th, 2013. Although categorized as 'regional,' it attracted more than 1,400 participants from about 70 countries. On behalf of the KRC Organizing Committee, I would like to thank all the participants and (former and current) Steering Committee members of the Commission on Political Geography (CPG) for supporting this successful conference.

CPG, as usual, was one of the Commissions that organized a large number of paper sessions in KRC. We had the following 12 sessions and one business meeting with 40 excellent papers and fairly good turnouts:

- New frontiers in border studies (1) (Chair: Anton Gosar)
- New frontiers in border studies (2) (Chair: Virginie Mamadouh)
- Political rhetoric, media representation and popular culture in the making of state power (Chair: Anton Gosar)
- Migrations, ethnic minorities and the spatial reconceptualization of citizenship (1) (Chair: Shinya Kitagawa)
- Migrations, ethnic minorities and the spatial reconceptualization of citizenship (2) (Chair: Elena dell'Agnese)
- Localizing social movements and environmental questions in a globalizing world (1) (Chair: Elena dell'Agnese)
- Localizing social movements and environmental questions in a globalizing world (2) (Chair: Yuichi Kagawa)
- Militarization and de-militarization from a comparative perspective (1): Security and subject (Chair: Takashi Yamazaki)
- Militarization and de-militarization from a comparative perspective (2): Okinawa and its re-/de-militarization (Chair: Colin Flint)

- Contemporary political geography and geopolitics in Asia (1): Dynamics in East Asia (Chair: Takashi Yamazaki)
- Contemporary political geography and geopolitics in Asia (2): International tensions and cooperation (Chair: Sang-Hyun Chi)
- Re-theorizing territory, sovereignty, and space (Chair: Akihiko Takagi)



Due to the KRC general rule to concentrate participants to the main conference, we did not have a pre-conference but organized a **post-conference field trip** to Okinawa from August 10th to 12th. The theme of the trip was “Militarization and demilitarization of Okinawa as a geostrategic “keystone” under the Japan-U.S. alliance” and co-organized by the Political Geography Research Group of the Human Geographical Society of Japan and the Okinawa Geographical Society. The planning of the trip had been supported by the General Affairs Department of Okinawa City Government and other local officials. Part of the trip expense was covered by the research grant from the Osaka City University Research Center for Human Rights. The number of participants was 21 (10 from KRC and 11 from Okinawa). The trip began with visits to the controversial US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and the huge US Kadena Air Base and stayed for two nights in the typical ‘base town’ of Koza where we enjoyed a weekend live house tour. We also visited other base towns where various

attempts and protests for demilitarization have been made. The trip ended with a visit to US Marine Corps Camp Hansen in which a military helicopter crashed just a week before our trip began. By listening to both Okinawan and American voices at each site, I believe that the participants were able to comprehend the complexity, profoundness, and prospects of issues on the militarized island. For those interested in the contents of the trip, the trip booklet is downloadable from:

<http://www.lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp/user/yamataka/CPG-Okinawa.pdf> (2.9MB)

**COMMENTS 1: An Excellent Adventure in Kyoto and Okinawa** (by  
Colin Flint, Department of Political Science, Utah State University, Logan, UT, USA)

From the perspective of this participant, the IGU political geography sessions at the Kyoto Regional Conference and the subsequent field trip to Okinawa were a roaring success. The setting for the regional conference, the Kyoto International Conference Center was a wonderful mixture of efficiency and beauty; how glorious to simply scan the registration letter and have one's badge and conference vouchers printed out automatically! And the building was situated within the surrounding lush mountains and blended into the scenery via a goldfish garden of extraordinary vision; a marvelous place to catch one's breath between sessions – despite the oppressive humidity.

The opening session was a rare treat. I usually avoid opening sessions but this one was worth the passage through the most efficient and nice security guards one could ever hope to meet. The venue was the very hall in which the Kyoto Protocol was discussed and signed. As a political geographer it was with some pride to see our own Vladimir Kolossov strut the stage as IGU President. Yet Vladimir's performance was merely the warm-up act to the welcome address given by Prince Akishino, and what a treat that was. He revealed to the audience that he was a card-carrying PhD researcher and one with field-research experience and publications to back up the claim. Prince Akishino spoke of his research on the domestication of chickens. Much more than a bland and generic welcome, the talk showed a man with a deep interest in exploring human-environment relations; a topic that reaffirmed the purpose and benefit of the coming together of geographers from all over the world, and our individual foibles and passions that have led us to our own research obsessions.

The Political Geography sessions involved scholars from all over the globe including Japan, Poland, the Netherlands, India, Hungary, South Korea, Italy, Finland, Russia, South Africa, the Ukraine, Great Britain, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States. Most interesting were the collaborations and counter-perspectives on the topics of borders and borderlands.



Particularly pleasing was the continuation of political geography's ability to seamlessly accommodate graduate students and established scholars in the same sessions.

Of course, the point of IGU conferences is to blend intellectual conversation with cultural experience. Thanks to the energy of our host, Professor Takashi Yamazaki, we saw the beauty and tradition of Kyoto – while also savoring wonderful food and learning our way around unfamiliar menus.

After the conference, an intrepid group set off for Okinawa. Takashi had clearly put much thought and energy into organizing this trip, and I am sure I speak for all participants when I say that we are truly grateful. The experience was inspiring as it was informative. To see the extent and impact of militarization was sobering; to hear activists trying to re-claim their neighborhoods and protect their natural environments was humbling.

The teamwork of Elena Dell'Agnese, Takashi Yamazaki, and Virginie Mamadouh, along with all members of the organizing committee, the student helpers, and the staff of the conference center made for a memorable trip, one that will inspire new teaching and research initiatives, and build and maintain the international political geography community. It was also a pleasure to meet, talk, and dine with all the Japanese professors and graduate students who acted as guides and interpreters. I learned a tremendous amount. Thank you.



Press coverage of the visit in The *Ryūkyū Shimpō*, August 11 2013: Members of the CPG group on the roof of the Okinawa International University with Professor Yasushi Sakihama, looking over Ginowan Futenma Air Station. See also the report by Miriam Grinberg, published on the website of the University of Warwick.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/knowledge/culture/two-days-in-okinawa-reflections-on-war-memory-and-identity-in-contemporary-japan>



**COMMENTS 2) Going for the first time to an IGU conference** (by Ben Schrager, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Geography Department MA Candidate)

Last year, I attended my first geography conferences, going to both IGU in Kyoto and AAG in Los Angeles. The differences between the two were striking. As would be expected, IGU represented regions from all over the world, but the conceptual focus was also different. For political geography, tourism studies stood out as an important approach that I had never previously considered. Along with the content, the experience of the two conferences was very different. Since the number of panels at IGU was more manageable, I regularly saw and spoke with the same people throughout the conference. This was an important way for me to share ideas and to develop relationships with other scholars. I especially enjoyed the collegiality and intellectual exchanges I experienced at IGU. As someone who does research on Japan, being able to attend IGU in Kyoto gave me insights into both Japan and Japanese geographical approaches. Thank you for a wonderful conference experience.

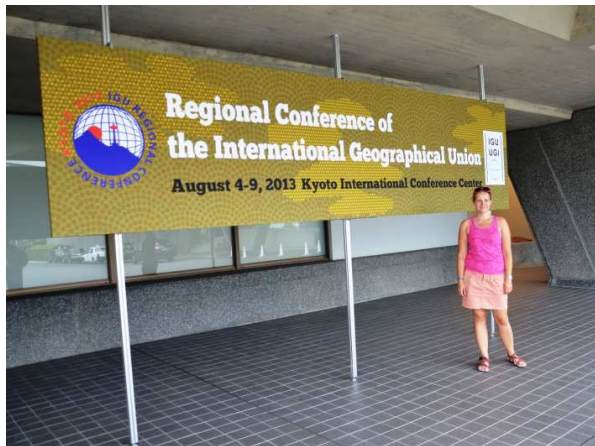
**COMMENTS 3) Going to an IGU Conference as a young researcher** (by Katarzyna Leśniewska, PhD student, University of Lodz, Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies)

For young researchers such a big conference was an excellent opportunity to meet many experts in political geography and also other related disciplines. We could learn from older, more experienced colleagues and talk about possibility of future cooperation. After all sessions there was also an open meeting of IGU Commission on Political Geography (CPG). The head of CPG - Elena dell'Agnese presented the recent achievements of the Commission and showed the structures and the plan for the future. Young people interested in political geography could hear about new initiative of CPG - young members. It is a great proposal to involve young researches in work of the Commission.

Such interesting place of the conference was also a good opportunity for meeting totally different eastern culture. During the opening ceremony the organizers prepared a surprise for the participants. In the end of this event there was a performance of traditional band, which use Japanese drums. The other occasion for meeting Japanese culture was the "tea ceremony" which was held in traditional tea house in the beautiful garden opposite to the Conference Centre. The participants of the ceremony could take part in preparation of "matcha"- special Japanese tea and try some typical sweets.

**The entrance of the International Conference Centre in Kyoto**

Source: K. Lesniewska



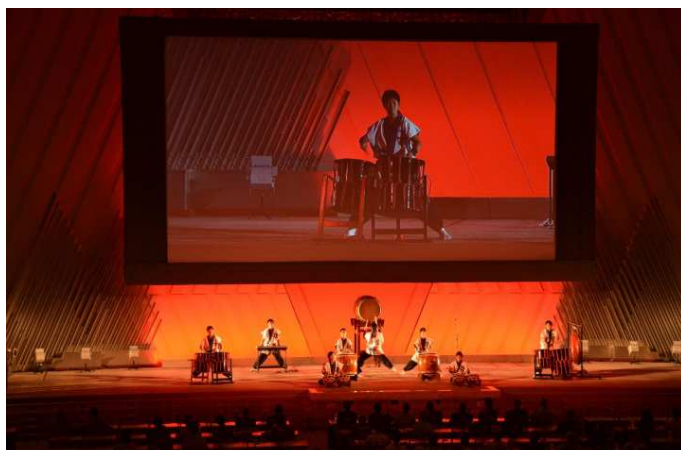
### **International Conference Centre in Kyoto**

Source: K. Lesniewska



### **Opening Ceremony of IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto**

Source: K. Lesniewska



## OTHER PAST EVENTS

### **2013 Annual Conference of the AAG,**

### **Los Angeles 9-23 April 2013**

(By Virginie Mamadouh, IGU CPG Secretary))

In April 2013 seven thousands geographers from around the world convened like every year in spring for the Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). Many of the hundreds of sessions were sponsored by the AAG Political Geography Specialty Group (PGSG) and political geographers from all over the world also attended the pre-conference organized at UCLA by the PGSG on April 8.

The IGU Commission on Political Geography sponsored a well-attended Authors-meet-critics session together with PGSG (Session 4628). The book under debate was the political geography textbook *Making Political Geography* (2012 Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield). The two authors John Agnew and Luca Muscarà responded to comments by Elena dell'Agnese, Takashi Yamazaki, Colin Flint, Natalie Koch and Virginie Mamadouh.

**The Commission would like to continue this experiment and sponsor more sessions at the next AAG to enhance its visibility among American geographers and other attendees.**

The members of the board and the young members of the IGU-CPG present in Los Angeles also hold an informal meeting, off the AAG Annual meeting.

### **The second edition of the Border Crossing Seminar, an international Summer School organized under the sponsorship of IGU-CPG,**

### **Milan 10-15 June 2013**

From the Polis to the City: Perspectives on Global Justice (by Giorgia Serughetti, post-doctoral fellow, University of Milano-Bicocca)

The Border Crossing Seminar is a joint program between the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) and the University of Notre Dame (USA), sponsored by the U.S. - Italy Fulbright Commission.

The theme of the June 2013 seminar, second meeting of "The Border Crossing Seminar", was "From the Polis to the City: Perspectives on Global Justice." This year's seminar has examined the evolution of the city within European and non-European political theory and

practice, from the polis of the ancient Greeks, to the cosmopolis of contemporary theories of global justice, to the present diversity of the city of Milan. We have explored how the urban space of the modern city reflects or reinforces its peoples' perspectives on national and international justice. We have looked at the contemporary issue of migration to and from European cities, and how it affects social justice at national, European Union, and global levels. Milan itself has been our primary case study. Walking tours of the city's cultural and urban spaces, and meetings with local people, have been part of the experiential learning component of the seminar.

The school has featured lectures by expert faculty from the University of Notre Dame, the University of Milano-Bicocca, and other universities from around the globe, in fields such as political theory, political philosophy, anthropology, sociology, political science, and geography. PhD and MA students from Italy and other EU member countries have taken part to this second edition. More information can be found visiting the site:

<http://bordercrossingseminar.weebly.com>.

Seminar papers and students' final works will be published in an annual e-book with the imprint of the University of Milano-Bicocca.

The Border Crossing Seminar is promoted by Pragsia (Public Reasoning and Global Society in Action, <http://pragsia.sociologia.unimib.it>), a research center of the University of Milano-Bicocca, within the frame of the project "Political Imagination and Borders. Citizens and Strangers", financed by the Ministry of Education, Research and University (PRIN 2009), and supported by: University of Cork (Ireland), University Justus Liebig University Giessen (Germany), University of Łódź (Poland), University of Rzeszów (Poland), Vassar College (USA), Fondazione per la Cittadinanza Attiva (Rome), Bruno Kessler Foundation (Trento). The co-organizers are Marina Calloni (social and political philosophy, University of Milano-Bicocca) and Eileen Hunt Botting (political theory, University of Notre Dame).

**20th International Conference of Europeanists, Amsterdam, the Netherlands,  
June 25-27 2013**

(By Virginie Mamadouh, IGU CPG Secretary)

The Council for European Studies (CES) at Columbia University convened the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Europeanists (for the second time in Europe). There were two sessions organized by political geographers of the University of Amsterdam, Virginie Mamadouh and Luiza Bialasiewicz, under the title **Negotiating cultural and political boundaries of EUrope and its Other(s) and featuring ten papers** analyzing the geographical imaginations of EUrope's encounters with its 'Other(s)'. The notation 'EUrope'

refers in this context to the European Union (EU) and the many dimensions of the process of Europeanization associated with this project of regional integration. The term 'geographical imaginations' describes the ways in which we spatially represent and "make sense of" places both near and far. Manifestly, such 'imaginings' have tangible political and geopolitical impacts through their contribution to shaping and proscribing EU policies and identities, as well as influencing both the nature and the depth of the relations between EUrope and its 'Other(s)'. The participants examined specific Others of the EU (Iceland, Ukraine, the US, the new East, the Mediterranean) to explore the variety and the importance of such negotiations of the cultural and political boundaries of EUrope. The topics addressed included academic parliamentary and public debates about ENP, anti-Americanism in public debate and public opinion, accession negotiations, border "management" urban redevelopment, and academic practices (Eastern European Studies).

**Border Studies conference on "Mapping Conceptual Change in Thinking European Borders",**

**Bergamo, Italy, 3-5 July 2013**

(By Jussi Laine, Conference Co-chair, IGU-CPG Young Member)

The first joint Border Studies conference of the EU-FP7 projects EUBORDERSCAPES and EUBORDERREGIONS on "Mapping Conceptual Change in Thinking European Borders", organized in Bergamo, Italy, in early July 2013 did not only present on-going research activities within these two large-scale international projects to the wider public, but engaged also a numerous scholars external to the projects in dialogue and in this way contributing to the development of conceptual, methodological and empirical research on borders and border crossings. Organized by the University of Eastern Finland, in close cooperation with Ce.R.Co. – Centro di Ricerca sulla Complessità at the University of Bergamo, the conference aimed to make a constructive contribution to debate within border studies by encouraging a processual reading of borders as well as showcasing border research as an interdisciplinary field with its own academic standing. The conference employed also the concept of borderscapes as a way of approaching bordering processes in specific geographical and social contexts, both in borderlands but also wherever a specific border has impacts, is represented, negotiated or displaced

Whether it was the topic at hand, or the exceptionally beautiful location in Bergamo, the organizers were faced with a flood of paper proposals, the number which eventually had to be limited due to the size of the conference venue. What was first envisioned to be a smallish project conference grew into a quite sizable event – or a series of events, to be precise, of 134

participants. In addition to the actual conference, an internal project workshop as well as an open summer school was organized. The conference was kicked off with a get-together event that took place at GAMeC – Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, where participants got to enjoy a travelling exhibition "The Memory of the Sea. Objects Migrating within the Mediterranean". This was then followed by a screening of "Mare Chiuso/Closed Sea" (2012), a touching film by Stefano Liberti & Andrea Segre.

The next day, following the opening words by Stefano Paleari, the Rector of the University of Bergamo and the conference organizers, the floor was given to Elena dell'Agnese, who delivered the eye-opening first keynote on "New Geo-graphies of Border Landscapes". As the second keynote, Henk van Houtum, pushed the borders of cartography even further in his ever so enthusiastic trajectory "Towards a C/artography of Borderscapes". These though provoking lectures paved the road for 22 parallel sessions focusing, inter alia, on:

- Post-soviet borders and conceptual change
- Borders, intersectionality and the everyday
- Borders and critical geopolitics of neighbourhood
- The state of the debate in border studies: theories and methods
- Europeanisation: European integration and conceptual change
- Post-colonial bordering and Euro-African borderscapes
- Border-crossing and cultural production
- Cross-border cooperation and regionalisation processes
- Rebordering state spaces: cities, borders and integration processes
- Policies and practices of cross-border cooperation
- Post-conflict borders and the emergence of new borderscapes

In all, the presented papers clearly showcased that concept of the border has indeed undergone significant changes during the last decades. After the somewhat premature attempt to "think away" political borders in the early 1990s, contemporary approaches solemnly acknowledge the continued relevance of borders for politics and everyday life. The conference uncovered important connections between borders as a "challenge" to national (and EU) policies and borders as potential elements of political innovation through conceptual (re-)framings of social, political, economic and cultural spaces. As a number of papers indicated, this requires a nuanced and critical re-reading and understanding of borders as resources in terms of the exercise of power, the management of conflict, cross-border cooperation, and the everyday negotiation of borders by "ordinary" citizens and non-citizens. The presented papers will be developed into an edited volume as well as a journal special issue in order to disseminate the findings more broadly. A number of working papers will also be uploaded in the project' webpages.

On behalf of the organizers, I wish to thank everyone for their contributions and making the conference a truly enjoyable experience. I also hope to see you again in Israel in December 2014, where the next EUBORDERSCAPES conference will take place!



## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **IGU Regional Conference in Kraków, Poland, 18-22 August 2014**

#### **CHANGES, CHALLENGES, RESPONSIBILITY** (from the conference website)

The sessions to be organized during the IGU regional conference in Kraków can be categorized as follows: plenary sessions, Commission / Task Force sessions and thematic sessions.

The sessions at the IGU regional conference in Kraków will be organized by the IGU commissions and task forces. Additionally, the participants may propose thematic sessions to be organized during the conference. The proposals for Commission / Task Force sessions must be submitted to the organizing committee no later than 15 October 2013 and the proposals for other sessions no later than 30 November 2013. Joint sessions on appropriate themes relevant to two or more IGU commissions are especially encouraged, as are those that contribute to future earth and the International year of Global Understanding. Interested participants should indicate the relevant commission/task force when submitting abstracts. Thematic sessions may be organized by the conference participants to present the achievements of research groups or the results of important international and IGU research projects, or to gather experts specialized in a particular research topic in order to discuss selected research issues. Additionally, the conference participants are encouraged to organize workshops and special sessions for young scholars and university teachers, school geography teachers and students.

Please, for more information, see the conference website <http://www.igu2014.org>

### **IGU-CPG International Conference, Eugene, June 19-21 2014)**

#### **Political Geography and the Environment** (by Alec Murphy, IGU CPG Steering Committee)

On June 19-21, 2014, the Department of Geography at the University of Oregon will host a meeting of the IGU Commission on Political Geography in Eugene, Oregon. The theme of the conference will be **Political Geography and the Environment**. The meeting will consist of two days of sessions, followed by an optional day-long field trip to the Oregon coast on June 21.

One of the clearest obstacles to the effort to confront environmental problems is the fragmentation of the planet into political spaces, few of which are meaningful ecological units. The issue is not just that ecological and political boundaries do not coincide; the very roles that territorial states play in the international state system and the world economy frequently work against collective action in the interests of the environment. Building on a tradition of examining the relationship between spaces of governance and environmental geographies, this conference will explore the role political geographic arrangements and understandings play in the effort to address the myriad environmental challenges of our time. Contributions are welcome addressing such issues as:

- Transnational regulation regimes and the special issues presented by environments that do not lie within the territories of individual states
- The political geographic dimensions of environmental security
- The geopolitical implications of environmental change
- Critical geopolitics and environmental discourse
- The geographical circumstances affecting the emergence and success of environmental movements
- The problems and prospects of collective resource management in different political contexts
- The use of environmental strategies in the pursuit of political-territorial objectives
- The implications of environmental change for theorizations of the relationship between space and politics

Confirmed keynote speakers for the conference include Simon Dalby and Shannon O'Lear.

The conference will take place on the University of Oregon campus, and housing will be at a close-by hotel. A conference website with information about registration, accommodations, and travel is currently under construction and will be available soon. Deadline for abstracts will be April 1, 2014. For more information about the conference, please contact conference organizer Alec Murphy ([abmurphy@uoregon.edu](mailto:abmurphy@uoregon.edu)).

**The 14th 'Łódź' 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)

**First circular**

The Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies, University of Lodz is organising the 14<sup>th</sup> '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. As the organisers wish to print a pre-conference publication (including conference programme, guide to excursions, and abstracts of all papers) the participants are kindly requested to send one-page abstracts of their contributions in English till **30<sup>th</sup> of May, 2014**. All papers presented at the conference and accepted by editors will be published in the next volume of *Region and Regionalism* No. 12.

A complete version of the paper (not exceeding 21 pages including figures and bibliography) recorded on CD using Word for Windows text editor should be delivered to the conference secretary during the event.

During the conference the maximum speech-time is **15 min**. The language of the conference is English.

The organizers assure bus transportation from Lodz to the place of the conference on 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 2014 and back to Cracow and Lodz on 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Each participant is obligated to have a valid passport and visas for multiple cross of Poland's and Slovakia's borders and also to have a individual insurance. The organizers of the conference do not take a responsibility for the consequence of misadventure, disease, etc. that would take place beyond the borders of Poland.

The conference fee is **380 EUR**, to be paid, **from 2 January 2014 till 30 May, 2014**, by **transfer** to Bank PKO S.A. II O/Łódź, Uniwersytet Łódzki. **Invoice** will be prepared only after transferring the fee to the account of the University of Lodz.

**IBAN: PL 88 1240 3028 1111 0010 2942 8031;**

**BIC/SWIFT: PKOPPLPW**

Tax Id Number: 724-000-32-43

(Political Geography)

The fee covers full board (starting from dinner on 14<sup>th</sup> of August to breakfast on 18<sup>th</sup> of August) and hotel accommodation in double rooms (single rooms available with **10 EUR extra charge per night**), conference materials, publication of papers, study tours, and a party. In case of a withdrawal from the conference, the organisers should be notified until 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2014. Otherwise the possible expenses will be charged to the participant. For further information, and application form, please contact Marek Sobczynski [kitts@wp.pl](mailto:kitts@wp.pl)

The conference is co-sponsored by: University of Lodz, Poland, Silesian Institute in Opole, Commission on Political and Historical Geography, Polish Geographical Society, Commission on Political Geography International Geographical Union

**27th Annual AAG Political Geography Specialty Group (PGSG) Preconference – USF Tampa April 7, 2014** (by Reece Jones, PGSG president)

The PGSG and the School of Geosciences at USF Tampa are very pleased to announce that the **27th Annual PGSG Preconference** will be held at the University of South Florida's Tampa campus on **Monday, April 7, 2014**. The paper sessions will take place during the day. The PGSG will host a group dinner for preconference participants during the evening.

**Co-organizers:** Reece Jones ([reecej@hawaii.edu](mailto:reecej@hawaii.edu)), Natalie Koch ([nkoch@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:nkoch@maxwell.syr.edu))

**Local coordinators:** Jayajit Chakraborty ([jchakrab@usf.edu](mailto:jchakrab@usf.edu)), Pratyusha Basu ([pbasu@usf.edu](mailto:pbasu@usf.edu))

**Sponsor:** School of Geosciences, University of South Florida, Tampa

More details will follow about the specific event location, but the School of Geosciences is located at 4202 East Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33620.

**Deadlines and registration**

Please submit a paper title and a 200 word abstract, along with author contact details (name, institutional address, email address), to Reece Jones and Natalie Koch at [aag.pgsg@gmail.com](mailto:aag.pgsg@gmail.com) no later than **February 1, 2014**.

As with our past pre-conferences, there will be a **nominal \$20 registration fee for faculty only**. Faculty, please bring cash if at all possible.

**Hotels near the USF Tampa campus include:**

Embassy Suites Tampa - USF/Near Busch Gardens (located inside the campus)

Wingate by Wyndham Hotel Tampa (free shuttle service)

Clarion Hotel & Conference Center Tampa (free shuttle service)

La Quinta Inn Busch Gardens Tampa

For more options, see: <http://hotelguides.com/colleges/florida/university-south-florida.html>

Campus and parking maps suitable for printing or storing on a portable device can be found at: <http://usfweb2.usf.edu/FacilitiesPlan/Campus%20Planning/map.html>

**NB the 2014 Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) will be organized in Tampa, Florida April 8-12, 2014.**

Early bird deadline for submitting abstracts and sessions: Oct. 23, 2014

Deadline for papers and sessions: December 3, 2014

See <http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting> for details

NB: IGU-CPG would like to highlight international political geographical sessions, please consider IGU-CPG sponsorship if you organize such a session.

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**XIII Coloquio Internacional de Geocrítica**

**EL CONTROL DEL ESPACIO Y LOS ESPACIOS DE CONTROL**

**Barcelona 5-12 de mayo de 2014**

Qué es el poder, cómo se ejerce y como controla a la sociedad y el espacio son cuestiones que necesitan seguir siendo debatidas en los Coloquios de Geocrítica. En éste queremos centrar la atención en estas últimas cuestiones, poniendo énfasis en las formas como se controla la sociedad y el espacio.

Todos los mecanismos de control político, administrativo, militar, simbólico poseen además de las funciones represivas otras que contribuyen a la regulación social.

Deseamos introducir una perspectiva histórica, que creemos indispensable, pero pondremos énfasis en las formas que control que se ejercen en la época contemporánea, utilizando instrumentos cada vez más refinados de información y control a través de redes técnicas, y de instrumentos simbólicos y retóricos

**Ejes Temáticos**

- Espacio, poder y control

- Ejercicios del poder y sus efectos espaciales
- El control y la articulación del territorio: divisiones administrativas, construcción de redes, infraestructuras etc.
- Redes técnicas y control del territorio
- Fronteras, estados y estructuras militares: control y gestión de la población y el territorio
- Delito, conflicto y ciudad
- La apropiación simbólica del espacio. Lugar ciudad, territorio
- Morfología urbana y poder. Una perspectiva histórica
- Morfología urbana y control en la sociedad globalizada
- Arquitectura, poder y control
- La apropiación de lo urbano: actores y ciudadanía
- La configuración de los Estados y sus implicaciones territoriales y de control de la población
- Salud pública: Sus consecuencias territoriales y de control de la población
- El sistema educativo: sus implicaciones espaciales, formativas, disciplinares y de control
- Vigilancia, nuevas tecnologías y riesgos globales
- Retórica y simbólica del control social y territorial

#### □ Normas para la presentación de resúmenes

El resumen deberá estar escrito en Word (.doc), con letra tipo Times New Roman, tamaño 12 a interlínea simple y con los márgenes justificados.

No podrá tener una extensión inferior a 6.000, ni superior a 7.000 caracteres con espacios, sin contar bibliografía e ilustraciones.

Todo escrito enviado al comité organizador que no alcance o rebase la extensión señalada no será considerado para su dictamen, sin obligación por parte del comité organizador de notificar a los autores que infrinjan este requisito.

Los resúmenes deberán contener una clara exposición del problema, objetivos, metodología empleada y principales resultados y aportes.

A fines de garantizar el funcionamiento del Coloquio en Plenarios y para facilitar el diálogo interdisciplinario, habrá un **cupo máximo de 150 a 160 trabajos**, y serán de modo que se hará una selección sumamente rigurosa de los resúmenes de acuerdo a los criterios señalados por parte de un Comité Asesor Nacional e Internacional de calificados investigadores.

Los trabajos finales deberán tener hasta 16 páginas y se publicarán en las ACTAS del Coloquio. Una selección de trabajos (aproximadamente 60) será publicada también en *Scripta Nova*, luego de una ronda de evaluación de los trabajos completos. Los trabajos deberán presentarse según las normas de *Scripta Nova* <<http://www.ub.es/geocrit/sn-norm.htm>> y

serán evaluados por el comité organizador y por los comités asesores nacional e internacional, así como por evaluadores externos.

Los idiomas oficiales del Coloquio serán: español, portugués, catalán e italiano.

□ **Calendario para la presentación y aceptación de comunicaciones**

Fechas para la presentación de resúmenes: **del 15 de septiembre al 30 de enero de 2014.**

Aprobación de resúmenes: **8 de febrero de 2014.**

Fecha límite para la recepción de los trabajos finales: **9 de abril de 2014.** Los trabajos que sean enviados luego de esa fecha no podrán ser expuestos.

**Sede del Coloquio:** Universidad de Barcelona, Facultad de Geografía e Historia, Calle Montalegre 6, 08001 Barcelona.

**Para los interesados en asistir:** Las personas interesadas en asistir al XIII Coloquio Internacional de Geocrítica y que necesiten una carta oficial, deben formalizar su inscripción escribiendo a <geotext@ub.edu>. Quienes no requieran carta de inscripción simplemente pueden asistir al evento, ya que la entrada es libre. Recordamos que el evento es gratuito.

**COMITÉS DE ORGANIZACIÓN**

**Directores del Coloquio:** Horacio Capel (*Universidad de Barcelona*), Pedro Fraile(*Universidad de Lleida*) , Vicente Casals(*Universidad de Barcelona*)

**Coordinadores:** Quim Bonastra (*Universidad de Lleida*), Gerard Jori-Jesús Requena

**Comité Organizador**

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**ABS 1st World Conference**

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

**Post-Cold War Borders: Global Trends and Regional Responses**

(by Jussi Laine, ABS Executive Secretary, IGU CPG steering committee, young member)

**Call for papers**

The Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) invites proposals for individual papers and posters as well as complete panels and roundtables related to multi-disciplinary study of borders, border areas and cross-border interaction. Contributions from all world regions are encouraged. The organizing theme for the 2014 World Conference is:



**Post-Cold War Borders: Global Trends and Regional Responses**

Since the end of the Cold War era, state borders have increasingly been understood as multifaceted social institutions rather than solely as formal political markers of sovereignty. The changing significance of borders has been partly interpreted as a reflection of global “de-bordering”, and of optimistic scenarios of globalization and international cooperation. However, such notions of “de-bordering” have been challenged by or even succumbed to the reality of ethnic and cultural tensions and increasing complexity and instability in the world system. It is time to ask how often contradictory global tendencies are reflected on the ground. We can recognize global megatrends that are changing the nature of borders but also regional and local processes of border-making and border negotiating.

The unprecedented expansion and transformation of the global economy and the concurrent fluidity of people and goods within a context of increased securitization, signifies fundamental societal challenges that directly relate to borders. On this view, borders help condition how societies and individuals shape their strategies and identities. At the same time, borders themselves can be seen as products of a social and political negotiation of space; they frame social and political action and are constructed through institutional and discursive practices at different levels and by different actors.

Despite new border studies perspectives that favor a broad cultural, economic and complex governance view of borders and borderlands, a strict top-down international relations view of borders continue to dominate policymaking. This current era of heightened globalization requires that we pay attention not only to the tendency of increased governance of borders and border regions, but also at the regional responses to such development.

Through regional responses to globalization, borders are reproduced, for example, in situations of conflict where historical memories are mobilized to support territorial claims, to address past injustices or to strengthen group identity – often by perpetuating negative stereotypes of the “other”. However through new institutional and discursive practices contested borders can also be transformed into symbols of co-operation and of common historical heritage

The general theme encompasses a wide range of topics and approaches. Please consult the conference website for inspiration. We invite proposals that focus on empirical research and case studies, conceptual and theoretical issues, and/ or policy relevant aspect of border studies alike.

**Confirmed Keynote Speakers:**

- Prof. Oscar J. Martinez, University of Arizona
- Prof. Paul Nugent, University of Edinburgh
- Prof. Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary, Université Joseph Fourier/CNRS-PACTE
- Prof. Anssi Paasi, University of Oulu

- Prof. Alexander F. Filippov, Higher School of Economics/Russian Academy of Sciences

For further information, updates regarding the conference, and to **download forms for submitting proposals**, please see the conference website at: [www.uef.fi/abs2014world](http://www.uef.fi/abs2014world)

Submission deadline for complete panels/roundtables: October 31, 2013

Submission deadline for individual papers/posters: November 30, 2013

Please send your proposal to [abs2014.secretariat@uef.fi](mailto:abs2014.secretariat@uef.fi)

The Association for Borderlands Studies 2014 World Conference is organized by the VERA Centre for Russian and Border Studies at the University of Eastern Finland in cooperation with the Centre for Independent Social Research and the European University at St. Petersburg. The organizers wish to thank ABORNE – The African Borderlands Research Network and the Finnish Association for Russian and East European Studies for their financial and scientific contribution.

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