

International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography

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NEWSLETTER 11 (Summer 2009)

Edited by Anton Gosar

IGU Commission on Political Geography, 2008-2012

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I – Chairman's Column

Dear Commission Members, Friends and Colleagues:

At present we are all looking forward to the IGU's Regional Conference to be held July 12 - 16, 2010 in Tel Aviv, Israel. The theme of the conference is Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World. The Second Circular has just been made public. In the Future Events section of this Newsletter you can find information regarding our commission's programming. Other important subjects regarding the Tel Aviv conference can be found at www.igu2010.com. The Commission on Political Geography is represented within the Organizing Committee of the Tel Aviv conference by Prof. David Newman (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva). Prof. Newman arranged a pre-conference meeting entitled Borders, Territory and Conflict in a Globalizing World to be held July 7 – 11, 2010 in Beer Sheva. We are pleased that the program includes a Field Trip to the Palestinian Autonomous

Territories and to other parts of Israel as well. The Field Trip will depart Beer Sheva in the morning of July 11 and end in Tel Aviv on the same day. We should visit the southern part of the West Bank, Gader Ha'hafrada (Separation Fence), Gush Etzion, as well as sites related to the political geography of Jerusalem.

The Commission on Political Geography (IGU CPG) was well represented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Las Vegas, March 22 – 27, 2009. There, the Political Geography Specialty Group had its 22nd annual pre-conference organized by Prof. Fred Shelley. It should be noted that the Julian Minghi Award and Stan Brunn Award have been granted to young scholars interested in political geography. In honor of Professor Minghi's teaching, a panel of US and European professionals was organized. I had the opportunity to talk to and discuss issues regarding our commission with two members of the CPG IGU Steering Committee (Dr. Takashi Yamazaki and Dr. Elena Dell' Agnese) and to exchange ideas with numerous American colleagues. On other occasions, in particular at the First Adriatic Forum, I've discussed similar topics with our two Central-European colleagues, Dr. Marek Sobczynski and Alexandru Ilies. I am looking forward to discussing CPG issues with Dr. Stephane Rosiere at the Borderscapes II meeting in Trapani, Sicily, this Fall and with other members of the Steering Committee before or during the Tel Aviv meeting next year. Members of the Steering Committee are eager to organize symposiums. Dr. Yamazaki's idea is to organize a meeting on Political Geography of Islands.

Members of the Steering Committee and officer's of the CPG IGU have forwarded their CV's. The editor hopes to add more about the activities of our members in the future. As editor of the newsletter for the years 2008 – 2012, I published my CV in the previous edition (No.10). We are all interested in sharing our work with our discipline and society in hopes of building new knowledge. Therefore, other professionals, politicians and all interested in political geography may wish to know more about our publishing, research and teaching.

David Newman is Professor at the Department of Politics and Society at the Ben Gurion University of Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel. He was born in London. He holds an Honors B.A. in Geography from Queen Mary College at the University of London (1978) and a PhD in geography from the University of Durham, England (1981). In 1982 he was appointed as lecturer in the Tel Aviv University Department of Geography and immigrated to Israel. In 1987 he became a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. From 1996 to 1998 he served as Director of its Hubert Humphrey Institute for Social Research. In 1988 he founded the Ben-Gurion University Department of Politics and Government and served as its first chairperson until 2003. That year he facilitated the founding of the BGU Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society (CSEPS), with which he is affiliated. Newman publishes essays and opinion columns in newspapers and magazines, such as the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Jerusalem Post*. His political activities have focused on the Israeli peace camp, strongly arguing for territorial withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian State alongside Israel. Since 1999 he has been co-editor, together with Professor John Agnew from UCLA, of the international journal *Geopolitics*, published quarterly by Taylor and Francis (Routledge). The present co-editor is Professor Simon Dalby from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

Newman's published work focuses on two main areas of research: **a)** Territorial dimensions of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. Newman has analysed the impact of the West Bank settlement network and the settler movement Gush Emunim. He has also carried out research on the changing territorial configurations of a Two State solution to the conflict with a particular emphasis on the Green Line boundary which separates Israel from the West Bank. During the early 1990s, Newman undertook joint work with Arab geographer, Ghazi Falah looking at the territorial and border implications of a Two State solution, some of earliest collaborative work between Israeli and Palestinian scholars to have been undertaken. This resulted in a series of four published articles as well as a retrospective look at the problems of undertaking collaborative research of this nature. **b)** A conceptual discussion relating to the functions and significances of borders in the contemporary period of globalization.

Newman has published a counter-narrative to globalization notions of a borderless and deterritorialized world, arguing that borders retain their significance in the contemporary world and that there is no such thing as deterritorialization, only reterritorialization in which spatial configurations of power are constantly being reconfigured. Not only do territory and, by association, borders retain their significance, but Newman emphasizes the need to focus on the symbolic dimensions of territory and the ways in which this feeds into the formation of national identity and attachment to place and space, in addition to the more traditional discussions which focus on the tangible and physical characteristics of territory, such as size, shape and physical resources.

Newman is associated with a number of border and boundary related institutions, such as the International Boundaries Research Unit in the UK, the Association of Borderland Studies in the USA, the Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) network, and as the Secretary of the Commission on Political Geography (CPG) of the International Geographical Union. He has facilitated, and attended as keynote speaker, international gatherings dealing with geopolitical and border related issues. Newman has been involved in peace-related activities. This includes joint Israeli-Palestinian projects looking at territorial and border issues, funded by the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (both with Ghazi Falah, the United States Institute of Peace in a project examining potential cross-border cooperation between Israel and a future Palestinian State, a European Union consortium project looking at the role of the EU in intervening in border conflicts, and a European Union Partnership in Peace program, facilitating peace related workshops for religious teachers in Israel and Palestine.

Carl Dahlman joined the Department of Geography at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, USA in 2006. Previously, he taught at the University of South Carolina from 2001-2006. He received his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Kentucky in 2001. While there he also earned a certificate in social theory. In college, he double-majored in sociology and music and then completed a masters degree in urban affairs. He grew up near Washington, D.C. While his focus is political geography and forced migration, he engages more broadly with much of human geography, particularly in Southeast Europe. His largest research projects focus on return migrations by those forcibly displaced. One such project is an on-going study of the geopolitics of Kurdish refugee migration. The forced migration of Kurds and others out of northern Iraq contributes to one of the most persistent migration streams to Europe and North America in recent history. The problems for both asylum seeker and host government are exacerbated by the reticence of many Europeans, Americans, and Canadians to sponsor refugees and complicating political and social factors occasionally marked by violence. Dahlman's research seeks to better understand these tensions and their role in international politics. Another project focuses on the international community's belated effort to reverse ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, for which he has been collaborating with Dr. Gerard Toal (Gearóid Ó Tuathail) of Virginia Tech. Their research focuses on the geopolitics surrounding implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord's provision for refugee returns. They've conducted fieldwork there during the first half of this decade. This work was funded by the National Science Foundation. Other areas of research include transnational and diasporic identities, international politics in the Balkans and Middle East, as well as cultural geopolitical identities such as masculinity and nationalism. Dahlman is currently beginning new research projects on the nationalist imagination of genetic origins, non-state spaces, and the cultural geopolitics of air power. Past research investigated the political geographical aspects of campaign finance in the United States, part of which appeared in the January 2001 issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Sanjay Chaturvedi is currently the coordinator in the Centre for the Study of Geopolitics, Department of Political Science and Honorary Director, Centre for the Study of Mid-West and Central Asia, at Panjab University, Chandigarh, India. His area of specialization is the theory and practice of Geopolitics; with special reference to Polar Regions, Indian Ocean and South Asia. He was awarded the Nehru Centenary British Fellowship, followed by a highly coveted Leverhulme Trust Research Grant, to pursue his post-doctoral research at University of Cambridge, England, from 1992 to 1995. Dr. Chaturvedi has been a recipient of several Visiting Fellowships abroad, including Department of Geography at University of Durham, U.K., Columbia University Institute for Scholars, Reid Hall, and

Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris (under International Program of Advanced Studies); Faculty of Law, University of Sydney, Australia; Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, and Henry L. Stimson Centre, Washington D.C., USA. He was also awarded a research grant by the Australia-India Council, in the year 2001, to visit several institutions of higher learning in Australia, in connection with his project, "Australian-Indian Perspectives on Antarctic and Ocean Governance: Interactions, Linkages and Opportunities".

Sanjay Chaturvedi serves on the international editorial board of journals like *Geopolitics* (Routledge), and *Co-operation and Conflict* (Sage). He is the Co-Chair of the Research Committee 15 (RC 15) of International Political Science Association (IPSA) for the term 2007-2010. He initiated, along with Dr. Dennis Rumley (University of Western Australia) the Indian Ocean Research Group (IORG) at Panjab University in November 2002. A network of more than thirty active researchers, IORG acts as a facilitator and coordinator of research on the nature and impact of the human uses of the Indian Ocean, with the overall objective of realizing peace, co-operation and ecologically sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region. He is also a member of the Core Group of Experts on Antarctica and Southern Ocean set up by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. He is the author of *The Dawning of Antarctica* (1990); *Polar Regions: A Political Geography* (1996); co-author of *Partitions: Reshaping Minds and States* (2005); and co-editor of *Geopolitical Orientations Regionalism and Security in the Indian Ocean* (2004); *India in the Antarctic: Scientific and Geopolitical Perspectives* (2005); *Energy Security and the Indian Ocean Region* (2005); *Globalization: Spaces, Identities and Insecurities* (2005); and *Security of the Sea Lanes of Communication in the Indian Ocean Region* (2007).

Elena dell'Agnese is since 2008 the Director of the Centre for Visual Research of the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Milano-Bicocca. In the same University, she also coordinates a Masters Program in Tourism and Development, and teaches Political Geography, Communication Geography and Geography of Development. She has been Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University and at the Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta. Now, her research interests are mostly focused on popular geopolitics, critical geography and gender issues (nation building processes and regional iconographies in Europe and in Asia; European borders and their role as identity markers; cities as symbolic landscapes and political places/spaces; the political geography of masculinity). She is the author of a dozen books and of about one hundred chapters and articles in referred journals. Among her most relevant publications, *Manuale di geografia politica* (1995, with Giacomo Corna-Pellegrini.), the textbook which revived Italian political geography in the nineties; then *Geografia e geopolitica dell'Oriente Estremo* (2001); *Geopolitiche dei Balcani* (2002, with Enrico Squarcina); *Geografia politica critica* (2005); *Mascolinità all'italiana* (2007, with Elisabetta Ruspini), and *Paesaggi ed eroi. Cinema, nazione, geopolitica* (2009).

Elena dell'Agnese serves as a member of the editorial board of the book series "Spaces", Guerini, Milan, and co-director of the book series "Studi e ricerche sul territorio", Unicopli, Milan; she is also member of the editorial board of *GeoJournal*, of the *Bollettino della Società Geografica*. Since 2008 she is an official referee for *Urban Studies*.

Paul Reuber is, since 2001, Professor of Human Geography at the Department of Geography of the University of Muenster, Germany. In 1992 he graduated from the Department of Geography, University of Cologne and worked for 4 years there. In the following two years he was a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Fund) guest lecturer at Khon Kaen University, Northeastern Thailand. As he returned to Germany he took a post of an Associate Professor at the University of Heidelberg. From 1999 onwards he served as Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, University of Mainz. He and Guenther Wolersdorfer are the authors of Germany's first contemporary textbook on political geography entitled *Politische Geographie: Handlungsorientierte Ansätze und Critical Geopolitics* (2001).

Stephane Rosiere is Professor at the Department of Geography, University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne (URCA) at Reims, France. He serves as the Editor-in-chief of the online journal *L'Espace*

Politique and is member of the CNFG (French Committee of Geography) since 2002. In 2008 he organized a well attended professional meeting in Reims and is in the process of publishing the proceedings (S. Rosière, Kevin Cox, Carl Dahlman, C. Vacchiani-Marcuzzo (eds.), *Penser l'espace politique* (Thinking the Space of Politics)). In 2008 he edited *Dictionnaire de l'espace politique. Concepts en géographie politique et géopolitique* (Dictionary of Political Space) and in 2007 published a major French textbook on political geography *Géographie politique et géopolitique. Une grammaire de l'espace politique* (Political Geography and Geopolitics. A Grammar of Political Space). Recently he received the Award of the geographical Society of Paris - Prix Charles Maunoir.

Marek Sobczyński is Professor at the Faculty of Geographical Sciences, University of Lodz, Poland. He studied at the University of Gdańsk in Gdynia, at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and at the University of Lodz. His main research interests are political geography, geography of urban settlement, social-economical geography, historical geography, electoral geography, geography of war, political history, and international relations. His regional focus encompasses Central Poland, the city of Lodz, Central-Eastern Europe and the Third World. At present he serves as Director of the Institute of Social-Economical Geography and Spatial Organizations at University of Lodz and as Head of the Chair of Political Geography and Regional Studies, Faculty of Geographical Sciences there. He is Vice-President of the Polish Geographical Society and the Head of the Centre of Asian Studies in Lodz. In 2007 he received the President of University of Lodz Award in recognition of editing book *Państwa i terytoria zależne. Ujęcie geograficzno-polityczne* and other publications in political geography. As editor (and K. Heffner) he received wide recognition for the book *The Role of Ethnic Minorities in Border Regions: Selected Problems of Ethnic and Religious Minorities* (2003).

II – Future Events

IGU Regional Conference, ISRAEL, JULY 7-16, 2010:

The International Geographical Union (IGU) will be holding its Regional Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, on July 12-16 July 2010. The IGU Commission on Political Geography IGU CPG will be organizing three sessions at the major conference (and two jointly organized with the MRP – Mediterranean Renaissance Program), and a pre-conference workshop which will take place at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, immediately prior to the main event, from 7-11 July, 2010. Interested participants are invited to submit papers for either (and both) of the meetings:

A. IGU Regional Meeting (main event): Tel Aviv 12-16 July 2010:

BRIDGING DIVERSITY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD: THE CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL STRUCTURES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The north-south/south-north and east-west/west-east relations within the Mediterranean Basin have never been as intensive as at the dawn of the 21st century. The Mediterranean is no longer the sole interest of the Mediterranean Rim countries in Euro-Asia and Africa, or even of the named continents; it has become transformed into a global “playground of interests”. Over the past decade, we have witnessed dual globalization narratives, a trend toward more homogeneous global conditions (as the result of the widespread competition) and, at one and the same time, a parallel trend in which differences are enhanced as localities – often set free through globalization itself – strive to maintain their unique identities. Globalization in the Mediterranean represents a complex set of processes, which political geographers have only just begun to understand.

In the POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY SESSIONS of the IGU Regional Meeting in Tel Aviv (July 12 - 16, 2010) we wish to explore the following topics:

- The Changing Geopolitical Structures of the Mediterranean and the Middle East
- Borders in the Mediterranean (organized jointly by the IGU Mediterranean Renaissance Program and the IGU Commission on Political Geography);
- Globalization, Glocalization and Territorial Identity in the Mediterranean Rim;
- The Geopolitics of Counter-Globalization Narratives
- “Engineering the Mediterranean” - Transnational Projects and their Spatial Impacts;

- Global Warming and Geopolitical Implications Related to the Mediterranean Basin (organized jointly by the IGU Mediterranean Renaissance Program and the IGU Commission on Political Geography);

Papers for the IGU Regional Conference should be submitted via email to geography@targetconf.com. Please indicate that your abstract is for the presentation during the session of the Commission on Political Geography

B. PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP – Ben Gurion University of the Negev; Beer Sheva (July 7-11, 2010): BORDERS, TERRITORY AND CONFLICT IN A GLOBALISING WORLD

The workshop will focus on the changing relationships between Borders, Territory and Conflict in a Globalised World. Sessions will negotiate the two contrasting narratives of a borderless world on the one hand, and the notions of territorial securitization which have re-emerged in the post 9/11 world, on the other hand. Although some local issues will be discussed, we wish to focus on the conceptualization of the linkages between borders, territory and conflict at a variety of spatial scales. Participants are invited to submit papers on any of the following themes:

- Borders in a Borderless World
- Territory in a Deterritorialized World
- Borders, Territory and Conflict Under Conditions of Globalization
- Borders, Territory and Conflict in the Mediterranean Region
- Borders, Territory and Conflict in the Contemporary Middle East
- Geopolitical Change Under Conditions of Globalization
- The Politics of Cartography and Geopolitical Representations

The pre-conference workshop will include a field trip, to be co-organized with the Commission on Indigenous Groups whose pre-conference workshop will also be taking place at Ben-Gurion University – local organizer Professor Oren Yiftachel.

Original papers in the field of Political Geography and Geopolitics will be considered for publication in Geopolitics. Further details concerning accommodation and costs etc., will be sent out at a later date. Every effort will be made to keep the costs of the pre-conference workshop to a minimum (to cover hotel and food expenses).

Registration and payment for the main IGU must be carried out separately on the official IGU forms.

Submission of abstracts and intent to participate should be sent on the enclosed registration form, no later than 10th September 2009, to:

- ***Prof Anton Gosar – Chair of the Commission: anton.gosar@guest.arnes.si***
- ***Prof David Newman – Secretary of the Commission and local organizer: newman@bgu.ac.il***

Please note: *All communications will only be carried out through email unless hard copy is specifically requested. We point out your attention also to our IGU Commission on Political Geography Website (<http://www.cas.muohio.edu/igu-cpg>).*

REGISTRATION FORM

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY (CPG)

BEN GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV, JULY 7-11 2010

BORDERS, TERRITORY AND CONFLICT IN A GLOBALISING WORLD*

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, TEL AVIV, JULY 12-16 2010

Name and Title:

Affiliation:

Email Address:

I intend to participate in:

IGU Regional Conference, Political Geography Sessions YES NO

Pre-Conference Commission on Political Geography Workshop YES NO

Title of Paper – IGU Main Sessions:

Title of paper – pre-Conference Workshop:

Abstracts should be enclosed on separate pages. No more than 25 lines, Times Roman Font 12, single spacing.

**Please note that if you are registering for the main IGU conference, you also have to register separately on the IGU site at: www.igu2010.com*

Other events are trailblazers to the main event next year in Tel Aviv. Here is the list of the ones we are aware of:

MARITIME BOUNDARY DELIMITATION,
DURHAM UNIVERSITY, International Boundaries Research Unit. Durham, 20 – 22 July, 2009
Contact: ibru@durham.ac.uk
Program: www.durham.ac.uk/ibru

MANAGING TRANSBOUNDARY RESOURCES,
DURHAM UNIVERSITY, International Boundaries Research Unit. Durham, 23 – 24 July, 2009
Contact: ibru@durham.ac.uk
Program: www.durham.ac.uk/ibru

EUGEO 2009 CONGRESS. SECOND CONGRESS ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE:
“Challenges for the European Geography in the 21st Century”,
BRATISLAVA, August 13 – 16, 2009
Contact and Program: <http://gis.fns.uniba.sk/eugeo2009/>

CONGEO '09. THE 8th INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE: “New Spaces, Identities and Geographies in Integrating Europe”
OLOMOUC, August 23 – 28, 2009
Contact and Program: <http://www.geonika.cz/EN/research/ENCongeo09.html>

“20 YEARS AFTER ...” – GEOPOLITICS AND THE POST-SOCIALIST WORLD; ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY – INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Manchester 25 – 28th August, 2009

2009 sees the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Eastern European variant of state-socialism, later followed by the end of the Soviet Union. As such, it provides an important point from which to reflect on the geopolitics of twenty years of change in post-socialist East and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union and their implications for world relations. The emergence of the “New Europe”, European Union expansion in 2004 and 2007, the increasingly tense situation around energy supplies, the rhetoric of a new Cold War, the resurgence of Russia as a world power, renewed Arctic tensions and conflict in Georgia all signal that events in the region remain critical to geopolitics and the world order. An important aspect of post-socialist geopolitics has been an emphasis on reorientation towards the “West”, particularly associated with relationships with and membership of economic and security organizations such as the EU, NATO, and OSCE.

Registration and Program:
<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+International+Conference+2009/>
Contact: Craig Young (Manchester Metropolitan University): c.young@mmu.ac.uk

GEOGRAPHY FOR A BETTER WORLD: 8TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS, University of South Africa (Pretoria), 1-3 September 2009

Maano Ramutsindela is co-organizing a session on: **Nature conservation, the market and livelihoods-** The ‘western’ fascination with nature, which characterised early travel writing and was one reason for the emergence of protected areas, has attracted scholarly attention from a range of social science disciplines, including geography. The realisation that there are a multiplicity of

'natures' involved for those who relate to protected areas, has led to attempts to analyse these with regards to wider societal, economic and spatial processes. These conceptions and connections are clearly not static but follow the ebb and flow of socio-political transformation and economic opportunities. This observation raises a number of questions for critical research on nature conservation: What is the 'nature' of the market in protected areas? How are local communities linked to or marginalised from these new markets? What is the form of privatisation in protected areas? How does this impact on peoples' livelihoods? How has the private sector positioned itself in relation to the state, local communities and nature conservation bodies? What conceptions of 'nature' are promoted, and how is this linked to competing ideas of the landscape? What are the global-local connections implicit in nature conservation efforts, and what are the spatial effects of these? This session uses these questions as an entry point into the analysis of natures and the environment and the impact of new markets and partnerships on the livelihoods of local communities. More broadly, the session seeks to expose the dimensions of neoliberalism in nature conservation and how neoliberalism capitalises on different aspects of the environment. In preparation for the session of the SSAG 8th Biennial Conference to be held at UNISA on 1-3 September 2009, we invite papers to address any of the questions raised above. Interested participants should observe the following deadlines: Submission of abstracts: **7 April 2009**; Submission of full papers: **11 August 2009**. Abstracts and papers should be submitted to one of the organisers through email: knut.nustad@umb.no; maano.ramutisndela@uct.ac.za and brookssj.SCI@ufs.ac.za

Organizers: Knut Nustad, Maano Ramutisndela and Shirley Brooks

BORDERSCAPES II: ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL?

Trapani, September 13 – 16, 2009

While the first meeting of Borderscapes, held in Trento, Italy, June 2006, was focused particularly on the myth of "natural boundaries", the second meeting devoted by the IGU CPG to the topic of "borderscapes" will devote a specific interest on sea boundaries and their physical and symbolic landscape. For this reason, it will be held in Sicily, in the town of Trapani, along the Southern frontier of the European Union. A part from *Sea borderscapes* (Borderscapes of migration and hibridity; fluxes, gravitation areas, commercial spaces), the conference will be open to other topics as well, and specifically to *Borderscapes of fluxes and communication* (Trans-border institutions and Trans-border regions; Governance and policy of borders); *Borderscapes as spaces of cultural encounters* (Identities and sociolinguistic boundaries, education; Minorities, territorial disputes, cosmopolitan cities); *Borderscapes as symbolic landscapes* (Demarcating objects and symbols; Cinematic borders and borderscapes in popular culture); *Gendered borderscapes*. Keynote speakers are going to be Vladimir Kolossov, Julian Minghi, Janet Momsen, Janice Monk, John Ó Loughlin, Claude Raffestin, Stephane Rosière. The Conference is organized by Elena dell'Agnese, University of Milano-Bicocca, and Giulia de Spuches, University of Palermo, with the help of Stefano Malatesta, University of Milano-Bicocca.

Registration and Program: <http://lettere.unipa.it/borderscapes2>

BOUNDARY DEMARCATION & MAINTENANCE,

DURHAM UNIVERSITY, International Boundaries Research Unit. Durham, 14–16 Sept., 2009

Contact: ibru@durham.ac.uk

Program: www.durham.ac.uk/ibru

DEUTSCHER GEOGRAPHENTAG 2009 (GERMAN GEOGRAPHY DAYS 2009): GEOPOLITICAL HEADWAYS AND THEIR IMPACT ON GLOBAL CONFLICTS IN A TRANSFORMING WORLD,

Vienna, September 19 – 26, 2009

Two panels on „Geopolitische Leitbilder und ihre Rolle in den globalen Konflikten einer Welt im Wandel“ (Geopolitical Headways and their Impact on Global Conflicts in a Transforming World) are organized by Prof. Paul Reuber, member of the CPG IGU Steering Committee. The following presenters are going to discuss the above topic: Veith Bachmann, Martin Mueller, Bernd Belina, Annika Mattisek, Shadia Hussein, Martin Geiger, Benjamin Etzold and Ulrich Best.

Registration and Program: <http://www.geographentag-wien.at/>

**2nd “ADRIATIC FORUM”: CONSTRUCTION AND DECONSTRUCTION OF NATIONALISM AND REGIONALISM: A LONG JOURNEY TO EUROPE
Trieste, October 1 - 2, 2009**

The 2nd Conference of the “Adriatic Forum” is the follow-up of the *First Conference of Geographers of the Upper Adriatic – Joint Management of a Borderless Area*, held in Koper/Capodistria on 27-28 November 2008 and organized by the Science and Research Centre of Koper and the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska. Using the new name of “Adriatic Forum”, the Conference aims at enlarging the participation to geographers and experts from a wider area. The topic of this 2nd Conference is a classic of Political Geography, confirming its particular relevance in the present era of globalization, characterized by the shift from new European nations towards new regional trends. The moral responsibility of political geographers in the delicate subject of construction and deconstruction of nationalism and regionalism appears to be particularly pregnant, as their contribution has to face quite frequently the temptations of political exploitation which can potentially lead to conflict and instability. The Adriatic area and its hinterland can be considered as an authentic “geopolitical laboratory” where openness and closure are confronting each other, while new trends from local microcosm towards emerging territorial entities are being defined. The historical heritage and the resulting conflicts on a generation and/or territorial basis are often factors of narrowness, in opposition to the contemporary world’s new flows and openness. The aim of the “Adriatic Forum” is to look for and mark out these new routes.

The Conference’s main topics will be: Geography of identities; Geopolitics of nationalism; Nationalism and conflicts; Border areas; Role of regions; Regional and cross-border cooperation; Regional economic integration; Globalization and sovereignty; Minorities; Migrations; International support for peace; EU interventions. All those who are interested in Political Geography, Geopolitics, Geostrategy and Geo-economics are invited to attend the Conference. On the second day, 2nd October, a specific session of the Conference will be reserved for young scholars, PhD seniors and PhD candidates. Organization is within the hands of Prof. Maria Paola Pagnini, Department of Political Science of the University of Trieste (prof. Maria Paola Pagnini). The program of the conference is co-sponsored by the Università telematica delle Scienze Umane Niccolò Cusano (Rome), by the Associazione Italiana Cartografia and by the Società Geografica Italiana. **Organizing Committee:** Maria Paola Pagnini, Maurizio Scaini, Pierluigi Campregher, Ivan Matejak, Andrea Burro, Giangiacomo Vale. **Scientific Committee:** Prof. Milan Bufon (Koper-Capodistria), Prof. Anton Gosar (Koper-Capodistria), Prof. Michel Korinman (Paris), Maria Paola Pagnini (Trieste); André-Louis Sanguin (Paris); Gabriele Zanetto (Venice). The abstract (max 400 words) must be sent by 1st September 2009 at the latest. Both registration form and abstract must be sent by e-mail at the following address: adriaticforum@gmail.com. After the above-mentioned deadlines, the participants will receive a second notification, including detailed instructions and information about the conference, the programme and other relevant items.

Registration and Program: [uoa.qbit.gr/contents/files/adriatic_forum\(7\).doc](http://uoa.qbit.gr/contents/files/adriatic_forum(7).doc) or [http://209.85.135.132/search?q=cache:2Fgm7IdzEYwJ:uoa.qbit.gr/contents/files/adriatic_forum\(7\).doc+Adriatic+Forum,+Trieste&cd=4&hl=sl&ct=clnk&gl=si](http://209.85.135.132/search?q=cache:2Fgm7IdzEYwJ:uoa.qbit.gr/contents/files/adriatic_forum(7).doc+Adriatic+Forum,+Trieste&cd=4&hl=sl&ct=clnk&gl=si)

BORDERS AND IDENTITIES CONFERENCE 2010 (BIC 2010), NEWCASTLE, UNITED KINGDOM, January 8 – 9, 2010

Meeting Description: While research on borderlands is well-established in the social sciences, it is only within recent years that interest in such regions as sites of particular relevance has taken hold within the fields of sociolinguistics and the sociology of language. Findings from studies on the relationships between and interdependence of language, borders and identities are of great value for many other disciplines within the social sciences - anthropology, human geography, and political science, among others. In the same way, the insights from social scientific research in border areas provide sociolinguists with challenging new theoretical frameworks within which to situate empirical evidence revealing the exact nature of the role language plays in identity-making and -marking in sites where identity is fluid, complex and emergent in social interaction. The Borders and Identities Conference (BIC2010) has two aims: 1) to demonstrate our current state of knowledge in this fast-developing area of sociolinguistic inquiry, and 2) to provide an interdisciplinary perspective in order that the results of recent sociolinguistic studies on the topic can be contextualized in broader social scientific discourse. Our principal objective in organizing the meeting is to foster new collaborative research initiatives by bringing together scholars in allied disciplines, with a view to extending and refining our understanding of the language-identity nexus in regions where in-group and out- group categorizations may be problematic, or at least more salient than elsewhere.

Keynote Addresses: 1. Dave Britain (Essex) 'Where North meets South?: Contact, Divergence, and the Routinisation of the Fenland Dialect Boundary'; 2. Nik Coupland (Cardiff) 'Where does Welsh Begin and End? Ideological'; 3. Boundary Disputes in the Revitalisation of a Minority Language'; 4. Danny Dorling (Sheffield) 'If lions could talk: attempts at mapping over the borders'.

The BIC2010 organizing committee welcomes abstracts for oral and poster presentations on the theme of identity construction in borderland areas. Papers need not have a principally linguistic focus. Abstracts should not exceed 400 words in length, including references. Please submit anonymised abstract(s)- in .rtf and PDF format - by e-mail to bic2010@events.york.ac.uk no later than 1st July 2009. Include your name and affiliation, and those of any co-authors, in the accompanying e-mail. Please also state whether you wish your paper to be considered for an oral presentation or a poster if you have any preference.

Contact: Dominic Watt; Meeting Email: bic2010@events.york.ac.uk
Web Site: <http://www.york.ac.uk/res/aiseb/bic2010/>

106th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS, WASHINGTON, April 14 – 18, 2010

The Political Geography Specialty Group (PGSG) of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) will active in organizing paper sessions, panel discussions, and other activities at the 106th annual meeting of the AAG in Washington in April 2010.

Registration and Program: <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2010/index.htm>.

32ND INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS (IGC) 2012: “Down to Earth” COLOGNE, August 26 – 30, 2012

Contact and Program: <http://www.cologne2012.de/>

III – Past Events

105th Annual Meeting Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, March 21 – 27, 2009

Professor *Fred Shelley*, who has organized the pre-conference and sessions at the 105th Annual Meeting of the AAG, has sent us the following report.

The Political Geography Specialty Group (PGSG) of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) was highly active in organizing numerous paper sessions, panel discussions, and other activities at the 105th annual meeting of the AAG in Las Vegas, Nevada in March 2009. A total of 65 sessions were sponsored or co-sponsored by PGSG, which for nearly three decades has been one of the most active and productive specialty groups in the Association. PGSG's annual plenary session is co-sponsored by Elsevier Science, which published the journal *Political Geography*. This year's plenary session was entitled "The United States in World Affairs after Bush - Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Perspectives from Abroad," and focused on transitions between the outgoing George W. Bush and incoming Barack Obama administrations. Speakers included Chris Gibson of the University of Wollongong, Australia; Takashi Yamazaki of Osaka City University, Japan; Virginie Mamadouh of the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands; and Maano Ramutsindela of the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Other PGSG-sponsored sessions focused on political-geographic issues affecting many parts of the world. They included six sessions on Practices and Landscapes of Militarization, organized by Richelle Bernazzoli of the University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign and Elizabeth Lee of the University of British Columbia; two sessions on "Whither Central and Eastern Europe: Contemporary Dynamics in an Elusive Region," organized by Corey Johnson of the University of North Carolina—Greensboro and Francis Harvey of the University of Minnesota; and two sessions on Geography of War and Reconstruction, organized by Scott Kirsch of the University of North Carolina and Colin Flint of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A complete list of PGSG-sponsored sessions including abstracts of presented papers can be accessed through the AAG's website at http://communicate.aag.org/eseries/aag_org/program/SearchAction.cfm. Each year, PGSG sponsors a preconference in order to provide presenters with more time for discussion of their ideas. The 22nd annual PGSG Preconference was held at the Plaza Hotel in downtown Las Vegas immediately prior to the AAG meeting. The Preconference included 26 presentations on a wide variety of topics including conceptions of geopolitics, international migration and political geography, geography and the natural environment, political geography and popular culture, and geographic aspects of the 2008 U.S. Presidential election. Presenters included scholars from Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Interested persons can obtain an electronic copy of the program including the abstracts from Fred Shelley by e-mail at fshelley@ou.edu.

In honor of Julian Minghi a session entitled Teaching Political Geography was organized at the 105th Annual Meeting of the AAG. The panelist Julian V. Minghi, Kevin R. Cox, Colin Flint, Guntram Herb, Pauliina Raento and Fiona M. Davidson tried to answer the following questions: How is the teaching of political geography doing these days? What was it like before the limelight? What are the teachers of political geography doing well and what could they do better? What kind of foci should classes and textbooks have and how should they respond to change? What about the politics of pedagogy? The panel offered opinionated insights into the wonders of teaching political geography and honors Julian Minghi as a pioneer in this field. The panel proceeded from Professor Minghi's opening comments to brief statements from the other panelists. The audience joined the discussion. The participants have had experience from several pedagogical environments in North America and Europe, have broad international experience, and cover a broad range of research interests in political geography. The organizer of the panel was Prof. Pauliina Raento from the University of Helsinki.

Professor **Paul Reuber** submits herewith information concerning the activities of the German Commission on Political Geography (Arbeitskreis Politische Geographie), which he is chairing:

In May 2009 a workshop entitled "Refugee Camps as Spaces of Exception" was organized at the University of Muenster. The following papers were presented and discussed: "I Close my Eyes and Treat People" - When Humanitarian Aid Does More Harm than Good: MSF's Experiences in Rwanda and Zaire (Ulrike von Pilar); When Exception Approaches Normality: the Refugee camp as an Entitlement Arena (Bram Jansen); Camping the Border: The Exceptional Politics of Internal Displacement in Acholiland, Northern Uganda (Simon Addison); There is Life in Camps: Observations from Refugee Camps in Zambia (Katharina Inhetveen).

The Annual Conference of the "Arbeitskreis Politische Geographie" within the German Geographical Society (DGfG) took also place in May. The title "Spaces in State of Emergency?: The Contemporary Discussion on Political and Spatial in Theory and Praxis" received extraordinary attention. Paul Reuber and Iris Dzudzek introduced the topic of 7 panels and workshops (where the following professionals participated): Spaces of Exception (Leila Mousa & Diana Griesinger, Georg Glasze & Méline Germes); Securitization (Benedikt Korf & Jürgen Ossenbrügge; Conrad Schetter; Henriette Neef, Marc Redepenning & Edvania Torres Aguiar Gomes; Johannes Herbeck & Michael Flitner); Space, Legislature and the State (Bernd Belina; Martin Klamt; Joscha Wullweber); "Europeization" of Spaces (Martin Geiger & Andreas Pott; Tobias Chilla; Sebastian Schipper); Daily Routine at EU-Borders (Mihaela Narcisa Arambasa; Kristine Müller; Andrea Kretschmann); Geopolitical Representation und Discourse (Paul Reuber; Shadia Hussein; Lars Stöwesand); Language and Event Spaces (Jörg Mose; Swen Zehetmair; Matthias Lahr; Jörg Mose).

In June 2009 a Panel on "Space, Power and Discourse - Analysing Geopolitical Representations from a Poststructuralist Perspective" at the "4th International Conference in Interpretive Policy Analysis: Discourse and Power in Critical Policy Studies" in Kassel took place. Contents: Hegemony and Difference in the Geo-Politics of Culture - The Way UNESCO articulates Cultural Identities (Iris Dzudzek); The Discursive Constitution of a Geopolitical Region: The Case of Francophonia, Georg Glasze); The Geopolitical Other in the Context of "the War on Terrorism" - The perspective of transnational Arab print media (Shadia Hussein).

This newsletter has been edited by Dr. Anton GOSAR, Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si), with assistance of Dr. Carl T. DAHLMAN, the Webmaster of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (dahlmac@muohio.edu). Publishing: July 1, 2009.