

**International Geographical Union**  
**Commission on Political Geography**  
[www.cas.sc.edu/geog/cpg](http://www.cas.sc.edu/geog/cpg)  
**NEWSLETTER 12 (WINTER 2009/2010)**  
*Edited by Anton Gosar*

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## **I – Chairman’s Column**

Dear Commission Members, Friends and Colleagues;

Let me, at the beginning, wish you personal happiness and professional success in 2010!

In 2010 we should make efforts to take part in the IGU’s Regional Conference **Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World**, Tel Aviv, Israel, July 12 - 16, 2010. At the main conference in Tel Aviv, the Commission on Political Geography will organize its own sessions, as well as other sessions in co-operation with the IGU’s MRP (Mediterranean Renaissance Program) and IPSA (International Political Science Association) and its Research Committee 15 (RC15: Political and Cultural Geography). I would like to thank Professor Maria Paradiso, University of Sannio, Benevento, Italy ([paradiso@unisannio.it](mailto:paradiso@unisannio.it)) and Professor Takashi Yamazaki, Osaka City University, Osaka, Japan ([yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp)) for taking this initiative.

Registration: If you are interested in participating in the IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv you should register for the main event at the main website of the conference (<http://www.igu2010.com/siteFiles/3/46/51427.asp>) where you will find all the necessary information. The Second Circular ([http://www.igu2010.com/pdf/Second\\_Circular-English.pdf](http://www.igu2010.com/pdf/Second_Circular-English.pdf)) of the Tel Aviv Organizing Committee points out that the reduced registration fee (US\$ 495.-) is accepted until **May 17, 2010**.

Abstracts: The same source ([www.igu2010.com](http://www.igu2010.com)) states that we should forward abstracts not later than **February 1, 2010** online via [http://smit2011.net/submission\\_form\\_en.aspx](http://smit2011.net/submission_form_en.aspx) (or via E-mail: [geography@targetconf.com](mailto:geography@targetconf.com)) to the Organizing Committee of the Tel Aviv conference.

I should add that the appropriate commission/session heads (see above) would be more than pleased if they would also receive a copy of the abstracts you send. Author’s suggestions regarding which session is most appropriate for their presentation (see below) would be appreciated as well.

Our own IGU CPG sessions at the Tel Aviv meeting should focus on:

- The Changing Geopolitical Structures of the Mediterranean and the Middle East;
- Globalization, Glocalization and Territorial Identity in the Mediterranean Rim;

- The Geopolitics of Counter-Globalization Narratives.

The joint sessions of the IGU CPG and IGU MRP (Mediterranean Renaissance Program) should discuss the following topics:

- “Engineering the Mediterranean” – Transnational Projects and their Spatial Impacts;
- Borders in the Mediterranean;
- Global Warming and Geopolitical Implications Related to the Mediterranean Basin.

The joint session of the IGU CPG and IPSA RC15 - Political and Cultural Geography should deal with the following issues:

- Shifting territories and graduating sovereignty: selected cases.

Pre-Conference: The IGU CPG – Commission on Political Geography will organize its own pre-conference at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva (July 7 – 11, 2010). The information on this event is available in the Newsletter 11 ([http://www.cas.muohio.edu/igu-cpg/IGU\\_CPG\\_Newsletter\\_11.pdf](http://www.cas.muohio.edu/igu-cpg/IGU_CPG_Newsletter_11.pdf)) and in the Upcoming Conferences and Related Events part of this IGU CPG Newsletter.

At this stage I would like to thank Professor David Newman for organizing this pre-conference on BORDERS, TERRITORY AND CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD and for taking the coordinating role for the IGU Commission on Political Geography in the IGU Regional Conference in general. Thanks, David!

In conclusion I also would like to say a few words of praise to our Webmaster, Professor Carl Dahlman. On our IGU CPG Website (<http://www.cas.muohio.edu/igu-cpg/>) he has already placed links so that anyone interested can join our CPG E-mail Listserv. Thank you, Carl! In accordance with the general request of the IGU Executive Committee we will be soon placing on the IGU CPG website a registry for those professionals and interested individuals who would commit their interest within the field of Political Geography. We are hoping for a great response!

Looking forward to meeting many of you in Israel in July 2010!

Anton Gosar, Editor

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## II - Upcoming Conferences and Related Events

### **1. 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](mailto: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](mailto:bic2010@events.york.ac.uk).

## **2. 106<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS, WASHINGTON, April 14 – 18, 2010**

Members of the Political Geography Specialty Group (PGSG) of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) are active in organizing paper sessions, panel discussions, and other activities at the 106<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the AAG. This year's meeting will be held at the [Marriott Wardman Park Hotel](#) and [Omni Shoreham Hotel](#) in Washington DC (April 14 – 18, 2010). Information regarding the main event is available at <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2010/index.htm>.

The traditional **PGSG Pre-Conference** will be at Virginia Tech's campus on 1021 Prince Street, Old Town Alexandria, Virginia (very near Washington, D.C.) on April 11 and 12, 2010. Further details and CFP will be posted to [www.politicalgeography.org](http://www.politicalgeography.org) soon.

There will also be a one-day conference called GEOPOL 2010 on April 13th, also in Alexandria at the Alexandria Lyceum Hall, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Invited speakers will talk on the following topics: 1. What is Geopolitics in the Twenty First Century; 2. Geopolitics and Empire; 3. Geopolitics and Terror; 4. Geopolitics and Cosmopolitics.

The conference web site: [www.criticalgeopolitics.com](http://www.criticalgeopolitics.com).

The Lyceum location: <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/lyceum/>

## **3. The IGU – REGIONAL Pre-Conference: COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY BEER SHEVA, ISRAEL, July 6 – 11, 2010: BORDERS, TERRITORY AND CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD**

**GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME.** The pre-conference workshop will take place from the 7th July through until 9th, followed by two field trips field trip on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11th July. The tentative program is as follows:

July 7 – 9<sup>th</sup>: Political Geography pre-conference workshop at Ben Gurion University

July 10<sup>th</sup>: Field trip to Northern Negev region, Bedouin communities and land struggles – Organizer Professor Oren Yiftachel

July 11<sup>th</sup>: Field trip to West Bank, Separation fence, West Bank settlements – Organizer Professor David Newman – to finish in Tel Aviv

July 12-16<sup>th</sup>: Main IGU Conference in Tel Aviv

July 17<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip to Northern border regions – Organizers Professors Nurit Kliot and Gideon Biger.

**DETAILED SCHEDULE:**

**(Introduction to the IGU CPG Pre-Conference.**

**Tuesday, July 6, 2010: ISRAEL - BRITAIN SEMINAR)**

(09.00-10.00: Opening and Acquaintance session

10-10.30: The State of Political Geography in Israel - David Newman

10-11.30: The State of Political Geography in the UK - Klaus Dodds

12-13.00: Session I (Papers 1-2)

13-14.30: Lunch

14.45 - 16.30 Session II (Papers 3-5)

16.45-18.30 Session III (Papers 6-8)

20.00: Dinner )

**Wednesday, July 7, 2010**

9-10.30: Greetings and Opening Session of the IGU-CPG Pre-Conference

**BORDERS, TERRITORY AND CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD**

9:30 Keynote Lecture

11.00-13.00: Session I (IGU Papers 1-4)

13.00-14.30: Lunch

14.45 - 16.30 Session II (IGU Papers 5-8)

16.45-18.30 Session III (Israel-Britain papers 9-11)

20.00: Dinner

**Thursday, July 8, 2010**

Sleep in or Visit Bedouin market

11.00-13.00: Session IV (IGU Papers 9-12)

13.00-14.30: Lunch

14.45 - 16.30 Session V (IGU papers 13-16)

16.45-18.30 Session VI (Israel-Britain papers 12-14)

20.00 Conference Dinner

**Friday, July 9, 2010**

08.30-10.30; Session VII (GU papers 17-20)

11.00-13.00: Session VIII (Israel-Britain papers 15-17)

13.00-14.30: Lunch

14.45 - 16.30 Session IX (IGU Papers 21-24)

17.00-18.00: Closing Session

**Saturday, July 10, 2010**

Field Trip - Land Politics in the Negev - Prof Oren Yiftachel

Pick up: Hotel 09.00: University Hostel 09.15

Arrive hotel 17.00

**Sunday 11th July**

Field Trip - West Bank, Separation fence, Hebron - prof David Newman

Pick up: Hotel 09.00: University Hostel 09.15

Arrive Tel Aviv 17.00

**ACCOMODATION.** There will be two accommodation alternatives (from 6-11 July - five nights):

(1) The **Leonardo Hotel** in Beer Sheva, price for the conference will be \$120 per night for a single room, \$140 double room for conference participants, to be booked and paid directly to the hotel. Price includes full Israeli breakfast. The hotel is a five-minute cab ride or twenty minute walk from University campus. To book: [http://www.leonardo-hotels.com/Leonardo\\_Hotel\\_Negev](http://www.leonardo-hotels.com/Leonardo_Hotel_Negev). To get conference rates you must enter Promotion Code (to be send individually).

(2) University Hospitality Unit: **The Campus Towers**, a five-minute walk from the university, are self-catering, though there is a supermarket and places to eat nearby. The cost is 130 shekels for a single room plus small kitchen, 200 shekels for a double room, which includes a bedroom and sitting room. There are a limited number units available and will be reserved on first come first serve basis. We have reserved 16 singles and 5 double units until the end of January, so participants will need to reserve by then since afterward they will be open to other university guests. (<http://web2.bgu.ac.il/global/Hospitality>) Click on accommodation and then Campus Towers for more information. The booking will be made by the conference organizers on your behalf but you will pay directly to the university – credit cards accepted.

We suggest that you plan your arrival for afternoon / evening of 6<sup>th</sup> July, or – latest – by midday of 7<sup>th</sup> July.

**TRAVEL.** If there is a large group of participants who arrive at Ben-Gurion airport at a similar time, we will arrange joint taxis for them to reach Beer Sheva. The two alternative methods of arriving in Beer Sheva are:

- A **private taxi** from the airport – cost is approximately 400 shekel (\$100). Travel time approximately 80-90 minutes.
- **By train** – there is a train from the airport to Tel Aviv and from Tel Aviv (same station) to Beer Sheva on an hourly basis. The cost (as of December 2009) is approximately 35 shekel (\$10). Depending on train connections you will have to allow upward of 2.5 hours. The train station in Beer Sheva is five minute walk from the Leonardo Hotel, but you will need a local bus or taxi to reach the University accommodation (you can also depart the train at the University station but you will still require a taxi from there). For rail timetable, see: <http://www.rail.co.il/EN/Pages/HomePage.aspx>.

**REGISTRATION.** Although the registration process for each of these is separate (for the main IGU conference you must register on the IGU web site - <http://www.igu2010.com> -, it is important for us to know which of these you will be attending, and which paper (and accompanying) abstract is intended for each of these meetings. The Program for the Political

Geography sessions at the IGU will be put together by Anton Gosar and David Newman following receipt of all abstracts in line with the IGU deadline. We will be charging a **registration fee of \$120** per person for the pre-conference. Between now and the conference we will do everything possible to obtain additional sponsors which will enable us to reduce the registration fee, but we are not yet in a position to do so. The fee will cover coffee breaks, some evening meals etc; Please indicate whether you will be accompanied by any significant others so we can make the proper arrangements regarding hotel rooms, meals and field trips. There will be a registration fee of \$80 for others to cover the additional expenses. Please also indicate whether you intend to join either, or both, of the field trips so that we can plan accordingly. The second field trip will end up via the airport and at the Tel Aviv location for the IGU conference.

**PAPERS.** For those of you who wish to have their full paper distributed to conference participants, it should be sent no later than 30th April 2010. Papers will be distributed by electronic means. For those of you who wish to have their papers considered for publication in a special issue of *Geopolitics*, or other conference proceedings, the full paper should be formatted accordingly - please see *Geopolitics* web site <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14650045.asp>

**WORLD CUP.** For those of you who are interested, we are fully aware that the pre-conference workshop will cover the dates of the Football/Soccer World Cup semi finals and the final in South Africa. We will make all appropriate arrangements to see these games, for those of you who wish to do so, including arriving in Tel Aviv on time on 11th July for the final. Israel is a football crazy country and there will be large screens and TV's at numerous hotels and bars during the period of the competition.

**CONTACTS.** **Matthew Engler**, a Middle East Studies graduate student at Ben Gurion University is assisting Professors *David Newman* and *Anton Gosar* in organizing the conference ([engler@bgu.ac.il](mailto:engler@bgu.ac.il)); **David Newman**, is the organizer of the pre-Conference and coordinator within the frame the IGU Regional conference 2010 in Tel Aviv, Israel ([newman@bgu.ac.il](mailto:newman@bgu.ac.il)); **Anton Gosar**, is president of the IGU Commission on Political Geography ([anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si](mailto:anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si)).

The previous information on the pre-conference included The Registration Form and The Abstract Submission Form and was published in the IGU CPG Newsletter 11 (Summer 2009).

#### **4. 12<sup>th</sup> 'LODZ' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HISTORICAL REGIONS IN THE STRUCTURES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, GLUBCZYCE-OPAVA, September 22-24, 2010**

The 12<sup>th</sup> "Lodz" international conference in political geography on Historical Regions in the structures of the EU will be held in the borderlands of Poland and the Czech Republic (Glubczyce – Opava) from September 22 – 24, 2010. Information can be obtained from *Professor Marek Sobczynski*, Department of Political Geography, University of Lodz, Collegium Geographicum, ul. Kopcinskiego 31, 90-142 Lodz, Poland; e-mail : [marsob@geo.uni.lodz.pl](mailto:marsob@geo.uni.lodz.pl).

### **5. 3<sup>rd</sup> “ADRIATIC FORUM”:**

**Wien/Vienna, September 23 - 24, 2010**

The Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Vienna are organizing The 3rd Adriatic Forum in Vienna, Austria from September 23-24, 2010. The Vienna's conference's main topics will be: geography of identities; geopolitics of nationalism; nationalism and conflicts; border areas; the role of regions; regional and cross-border cooperation; regional economic integration; globalization and sovereignty; minorities; migrations. Organizer of the conference: *Professor Peter Jordan* is the Editor-in-Chief of Atlas of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe ([peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at) and [peter.jordan@univie.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@univie.ac.at)). The organizer is in the process to publish the first call for papers.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the “Adriatic Forum” in Vienna is the follow-up of the First Conference of Geographers of the Upper Adriatic – *Joint Management of a Borderless Area*, held in Koper/Capodistri in 2008 and of the Second Conference of Geographers of the Upper Adriatic *Construction and Deconstruction of Nationalism and Regionalism: a Long Journey to Europe* held in Trieste in October, 2009.

### **6. 32<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS (IGC) 2012: “Down to Earth”**

**COLOGNE, August 26 – 30, 2012**

The Organizing Committee of the International Geographical Congress COLOGNE 2012, DOWN TO EARTH has informed commission chairs that “... *the pre/post-conferences are a significant extension of the main congress, but that they should not replace the main congress and lead to eventual non-attendance. The last two IGU congresses in Glasgow 2004 and Tunis 2008 have had some significant number of “no-shows” at the main event. Whole timeslots for sessions had to be cancelled because participants did not appear....*” On the other hand, the Cologne 2012 Organizing Committee has offered their apparatus in helping to arrange pre/post-conferences of commissions near Cologne or in the wider area of Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. We will be asking our distinguished IGU CPG Steering Committee member *Professor Paul Reuber* to have a look into the matter and suggest some possible locations and time-frames.

Contact and Program (when available) of the International Geographical Congress COLOGNE 2012, DOWN TO EARTH: <http://www.cologne2012.de/>.

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## **III – Past Events**

### **IPSA WORLD CONGRESS, Santiago, Chile, July 12-16, 2009**

A total of 2389 people participated in the 2009 **IPSA World Congress** of Political Science in Santiago, Chile. The Research Committee on Political and Cultural Geography (RC 15) of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) organized the following four panels at the Congress:

- Panel 1: Geopolitics of Climate Change > Co-organizers: Sanjay Chaturvedi (Punjab University) and Timothy Doyle (Keele University);
- Panel 2: Global Energy Resources: Where Geography & Politics Converge> Co-conveners: Aharon Klieman (Tel Aviv University, RC 41 on Geopolitics) and Takashi Yamazaki (Osaka City University, RC 15);

- Panel 3: Urban Politics, Global Discontent and Resistance > Co-organizers: Joe Painter (Durham University) and Jeronimo Montero (Durham University);
- Panel 4: Latin American Geopolitics > Co-organizers: Heriberto Cairo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain) and Jaime Preciado (Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico).

Twelve excellent papers altogether were presented from all around the world. All the panels were well-attended. Upon approval by the committee members for our second term, the other co-chair Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi and I will initiate new projects for the next IPSA World Congress in Madrid 2012. For more information about activities of the IPSA, please look at: <http://www.ipsa.org/site/>. Information provided by: [yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp).

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HISTORICAL REGIONS, Legnica, September 7–9, 2009**

The conference on historical regions of Europe was organized by the Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies, University of Lodz from September 7 - 9, 2009 in Legnica (Lower Silesia region in south-west Poland) in cooperation with the Witelon University of Applied Sciences of Legnica. The theme was ‘Historical geography as determinant of development of different disciplines of sciences’. The main organizers were Joanna Szczepankiewicz-Battek PhD (Legnica) and Prof. Mariusz Kulesza (Lodz). The organizing Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies consists of two sub-departments: 1. Political Geography and 2. Historical Geography and Cultural Heritage. Since 1988 at least every two years such meetings took place (at odd years, beginning since 2007). Conferences on historical geography are in Polish, participation of foreign participants is encouraged (in Legnica they were from Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Germany and Czech Republic). Some 40 papers were presented and the foreign participants could have presented their papers in English or German which was translated to Polish. In 2009 the Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies and the Silesian Institute in Opole edited the ninth edition of "Region and Regionalism" (two volumes). Both volumes are entitled Historical Regions Divided by Borders. Volume one has the subtitle “General Problems and Regional Issues” and was edited by Marek Sobczynski (250pp.); volume two is entitled “Cultural Heritage and Multicultural Cities” and was edited by Krystian Heffner (292 pp.).

### **BORDERSCAPES II: ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL? Trapani, September 13 – 16, 2009**

Three years after the first successful IGU-CPG meeting on *Borderscapes*: “Spaces in conflict/symbolic places/network of peace” held in Trento (Italy) in June 2006, a second international conference took place in Trapani (Italy) in September 2009, twenty years after the Fall of Berlin’s Wall. The title of the 2009 edition was “Another Brick in the Wall” and it was organized by the member of our Steering Committee Elena dell’Agnese and by Giulia de Spuches. While the first *Borderscapes* aimed to discuss the myth of “natural boundaries”, the second meeting was focused on sea boundaries and on their physical and symbolic landscapes. For this reason it took place in Sicily, in the town of Trapani, a symbolic place along Europe’s southern frontier. A part from the theme of ‘Sea Borderscapes’, the conference was dedicated to other topics such as *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* (Cinematic Borders and Borderscapes in Popular Culture) and *Gendered Borderscapes*. After the opening session “Rethinking Borderscapes”, with the contributes of Vincenzo Guarrasi, Elisabeth Vallet and Charles David, Stephan Rosière, Jan Monk, Catalina Denman, Patricia Manning and Elsa Cornejo, the topics of the following sessions were: “The Mediterranean Region and the EU Southern border”, “Europe between old Boundaries and new Frontiers”, “Divided cities and Urban Borderscapes”, “Bordscapes of Conflict, Borderscapes of Peace”, “Borderscapes of art, literature and vision”, “Cinematic Borderscapes”, “Social Borderscapes, Cultural Borderscapes, Gendered Borderscapes”. During the third day of *BorderscapesII*, the movie “Europlex. Border zones” was shown, directed by Ursula Biemann and Angela Sandersii, along with a field trip around the ‘Old Trapani’. The meeting represented an important chance for crucial interchange of ideas among several influential Political Geographers (Vladimir Kolossov, Julian Minghi, John Ó Loughlin, Stephane Rosière, Anton Gosar...) and a new generation of European Geographers. Further info: <http://lettere.unipa.it/borderscapes2/index.php>; Elena dell’Agnese, University of Milano-Bicocca ([elena.dellagnese@unimib.it](mailto:elena.dellagnese@unimib.it)); Giulia de Spuches, University of Palermo ([gdespuches@unipa.it](mailto:gdespuches@unipa.it)).

## **2<sup>nd</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE ADRIATIC FORUM: CONSTRUCTION AND DECONSTRUCTION OF NATIONALISM ANMD REGIONALISM – A LONG JOURNEY TO EUROPE, Trieste, October 1 – 2, 2009**

Using the new name of “Adriatic Forum”, the Conference was aiming at enlarging the participation of geographers and experts from a wider area. The topic of the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference of the Adriatic Forum was a classic in 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. In all, 38 presenters from Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and France have presented their views on nationalism (in particular) in a bright lecture room at the University of Trieste. Professor Maria Paola Pagnini, assisted by Ivan Matejak have hosted the participants in the best possible way. Further info: [mp.pagnini@virgilio.it](mailto:mp.pagnini@virgilio.it) and [presidenza.politiche@unisu.it](mailto:presidenza.politiche@unisu.it).

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## **IV - Members’ projects, writings, travels and other activities.**

Our IGU CRP Steering Committee member Professor *Stéphane Rosière* has become Editor-in-Chief of the online journal *L’Espace Politique* (<http://espacepolitique.revues.org/>). His activities for the year 2010 include:

- Round table discussion on the fragmentation of the world political map at the Military School of Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan (France) in April, 2010. Proceedings of this meeting will be published in an oncoming issue of *L'Espace Politique*.
- Co-organisation of an international colloquium entitled FIRMS, GEOPOLITICS & TERRITORIES to be held in Nancy (France) in Mid-September, 2010.
- Reports in regular journals of geography on passed events IGU CPG and colleagues in political geography have organized.
- Editing of the book *PENSER L'ESPACE POLITIQUE*, S. Rosière, K. Cox, C. Vacchiani and C. Dahlman (Eds), Paris, Ellipses, 2009 dec.

Professor *Stéphane Rosière* and colleagues are eager of setting up a research team on the issue of WALLS AND FENCES (closed international borders) and asking scholars interested in the topic to participate. Info: [stephane.rosiere@univ-reims.fr](mailto:stephane.rosiere@univ-reims.fr).

Our two IGU CRP Steering Committee members Professor *Sanjay Chaturvedi* and *Dr. Takashi Yamazaki* have been seeking an opportunity for IPSA Research Committee 15 (RC15: Political and Cultural Geography) to collaborate with our IGU CPG. This is mainly because IPSA requires RC's to play a key role in academic meetings held between IPSA World Congresses. They have proposed, and the organizing committee of the Tel Aviv Regional Conference 2010

has accepted, a joint endeavor of the RC 15 and our commission at the IGU Regional Conference this Summer in Tel Aviv. Professor Yamazaki and Professor Takagi of Kyushu University and several other colleagues from Japan will attend a joint session of the IGU CPG and the RC – 15.

Professor Yamazaki will co-chair and along with Professor David Newman collect papers and organize a mini session. We all believe that such a joint endeavor will promote productive international exchange in political geography. Theme: SHIFTING TERRITORIES AND GRADUATING SOVEREIGNTY: THE CASES OF JAPAN, ITALY, AND ISRAEL. Organizer: Takashi Yamazaki, Ph.D. (IPSA RC15 and IGU CPG, Osaka City University,

Japan). Paper-givers: Akihiko Takagi, Dr. (IPSA RC15, Kyushu University, Japan) Shin'ya Kitagawa, Dr. (Osaka City University, Japan) Taizo Imano, Doctoral student (Osaka City University, Japan) Takashi Yamazaki, Ph.D. (IPSA RC15 and IGU CPG, Osaka City University, Japan). Info: [yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp).

Professor Chaturvedi has been selected as a 2010-2012 Fellow of India-China Institute, The New School, New York. He has also been invited to serve on the Social Science Action Group (SSAG) of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). The Social Science Action Group (see <http://www.scar.org/researchgroups/via/>) shall focus on cataloguing the range of values human beings place on Antarctica. This includes both intrinsic values (such as symbolic and spiritual) and extrinsic values (such as economic and scientific). He has joined the editorial board of *Political Geography* and the international advisory board of the *Journal of Borderland Studies*.

Chaturvedi is pleased to report that from June 2010 the flagship journal of the Indian Ocean Research Group ([www.iorgroup.org](http://www.iorgroup.org) <http://www.iorgroup.org/>), *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region* will be published by Routledge. As one of the editors, he is very much looking forward to receiving submissions to the new journal from the IGU members. Some of his recent publications include: FISHERIES EXPLOITATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

REGION: Threats and Opportunities (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, co-edited with Dennis Rumley and Vijay Sakhujia, 2009) STATE OF JUSTICE IN INDIA: Marginalities and Justice (New Delhi: Sage, co-edited with Paula Banerjee, 2009).

Our distinguished colleague and IGU CPG past president Professor *Andre Louis Sanguin* is recently working on the topic POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY'S GREAT MEN OF THE PAST and was ready to share his knowledge on political geographers not widely known. To this Newsletter he contributed the story of ANDRE SIEGFRIED (1875-1959). André Siegfried, nicknamed the *Unconventional French Political Geographer*<sup>(1)</sup>, was professor at the Paris School of Political Sciences (1910-1957) and he held the chair of political geography at *Collège de France* (1933-1946). His work was totally devoted to geography of Anglo-Saxon democracies, to geography of international affairs and to geography of elections. His studies were based on field surveys. Siegfried was an exception within the French school of geography: most of his books were translated into English!

- His long and repeated stays in the great Anglo-Saxon democracies produced some significant and famous books which were compared to medical diagnosis: *Democracy in New Zealand* (1914), *Post-War Britain* (1924), *America Comes at Age* (1927), *England's Crisis* (1931), *Canada, An International Power* (1937), *America at Mid-Century* (1955). The undeniable success of *America Comes at Age* and of *Canada, An International Power* transformed their author into the Twentieth Century's Tocqueville for the Americas. Both titles became classical textbooks at North American universities.
- All along his 6-decades of production, Siegfried introduced the geography of international affairs as an accepted subfield of political geography. Most of his books became best-sellers because Siegfried knew to emphasize not only the psychology of peoples but also contradictory trends (globalization versus partitioning, cosmopolitanism versus isolationism), like for example in: *France, A Study in Nationality* (1930), *Impressions of South America* (1933), *Europe's Crisis* (1935), *Suez and Panama* (1940), *The Mediterranean* (1946), *Switzerland, A Democratic Way of Life* (1950), *Africa Journey* (1951), *Nations Have Souls* (1952), *Les voies d'Israël* (1958), *Routes of Contagion* (1960).
- For the first time Siegfried paved the way to French electoral geography as another political geography subfield with his famous book *Tableau politique de la France de l'Ouest sous la Troisième République* (1913) followed by two subsequent books: *Tableau des partis en France* (1930) and *Géographie électorale de l'Ardèche sous la Troisième République* (1949).

Siegfried was a visionary of the twentieth century and a careful observer in the field. He identified the foreshadowing of the great world changes as his contemporaries ignored them. He understood foreign countries politics and principles and their specific features. At all the scales, he was a kind of *mirror-consciousness* of the past century which was strengthened by the creative intuition of a humanistic traveler listening to the world.

<sup>(1)</sup> SANGUIN, André-Louis, "André Siegfried, An Unconventional French Political Geographer", *Political Geography Quarterly*, 1985, vol. 4, n° 1, pp. 79-83. Info: al.sanguin@orange.fr.

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