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Commission on Political Geography
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Edited by Anton Gosar

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I – Chairman’s Column

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Political Geography;

Since our last Newsletter several months have passed; we are all one year older and wiser. The IGU’s 2010 Regional conference “Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World”, in the heat of the Israeli summer (July 12 – 16, 2010), was a memorable experience. Political geographers had a major say in Tel Aviv as we organized 8 sessions and two of them as plenary sessions. Several post-conference excursions took participants to Jerusalem, Jordania and other regions and cities in the area. The CPG IGU pre-conference “Borders, Territory and Conflict in a Globalising World” in Beer Sheva (July 6 – 11, 2010) was a full success. David Newman and the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev hosted close to 50 political geographers from Israel and 12 other countries of the world. The excursions to the Bedouin settlements and the Palestinian Territories were the highlights of the pre-conference.

In Tel Aviv the IGU Executive Committee and President Ron Abler organized meetings with National Committee members and Chairs of IGU’s commissions and task forces. Questions were raised in regard to conferences taking place yearly. Since there is an abundance of countries and national committees interested in organizing regional conferences or the general conference, the president is convinced that geographers should continue meeting yearly. Participation of (all) commissions is not mandatory at (every) regional conference (Israel, 2010; Santiago de Chile, 2011; Kyoto, 2013, ... Moscow, 2015); it is definitely expected that commissions, in addition to their own topical conferences, participate at International Geographical Congresses, like Cologne (2012) and Beijing (2016). The IGU President’s intention is to find sponsorships and long lasting donations for the many activities the IGU is planning to work on. IGU commissions’ membership is an important source of information for donors. Commission chairs were urged to provide opportunities for interested individuals to register as members and to organize an archive of membership by the country of residency. Initiations have started to provide funds and diplomas of excellence for (best) papers presented by young researcher participating at the regional/general IGU conference and for the recognition of individuals’ merits aimed at past commission chairs. Mike Meadows (mmeadows@mweb.co.za) became new General Secretary of the IGU at the Cape Town Secretariat. The new IGU website should be launched as www.igu-online.org; it will be formally linked to the old domain www.igu-net.org in due course. Commission chairs are asked to report on activities of the commission and on publishing of members.

The Business Meeting of the Commission on Political Geography was organized on Tuesday, July 12, 2010 in the evening. Fifteen geographers interested in issues of political geography (4 members of the Steering Committee and the IGU’s Vice-President Vladimir Kolossov) participated. The following is the result of the meeting, lasting almost 2 hours:

- The CPG IGU is planning to organize and/or co-organize the following commission meetings in 2011 and after: “Territorial Identity and Geopolitics”, Kiev and Crimea, Ukraine (June 2011), contact: vladimirkolossov@gmail.com; “(Re)Integration and Development Issues in Multicultural Border Regions”, Portoroz-Portorose, Slovenia (September 22 – 24, 2011), contact: milan.bufon@zrs.upr.si; “United and Integrated with the World”, IGU Regional Geographic Conference (with CPG IGU participation), Santiago, Chile (November 14 – 18, 2011), contact: al.sanguin@orange.fr; “Borderscapes III”, Lago di Como, Italy (June 2012), contact: elena.dellagnese@unimib.it; “Down to Earth”, 32nd International Geographic Congress (with CPG IGU participation), Cologne, Germany (August 26 – 30, 2012), including the CPG IGU pre-conference (August 24 – 25, 2012), contact: p.reuber@uni-muenster.de; “Political Geography of the Environment”, Eugene, Oregon, USA (June 2013), contact: abmurphy@uoregon.edu; “Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth’s Future”, IGU Regional Geographic Conference (with CPG IGU participation), Kyoto, Japan (August 4 – 9, 2013), contact: [yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yamatata@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp); “Urban Political Geography” (working title), Reims, France (2014); contact: stephanerosiere@orange.fr. Many other traditional regional conferences and symposia (like The Adriatic Forum IV, ...) will also be supported and professionally sponsored by IGU CPG.
- “Down to Earth”, 32nd International Geographic Congress (with CPG IGU participation), Cologne, Germany (August 26 – 30, 2012): the pre-conference should be primarily arranged on the topic of integration and disintegration of nation-states and territories (in particular of Europe). Meeting place and/or excursion could be related to topic. Prof. Paul Reuber (p.reuber@uni-muenster.de) will co-ordinate activities for the main event in Cologne (up to 4 sessions) with Prof. Frauke Kraas (University of Cologne, Institute of Geography, Albertus-Magnus-Platz, 50923 Cologne; T.:+49 (0)2214704142; E.: info@cologne2012.de).
- At the 32nd International Geographic Congress the IGU CPG Steering Committee membership should be, according to IGU rules, renewed (max. 2 mandates for members of Steering Committee). Out of 10 members of the present-day IGU CPG Steering Committee 8 are to be replaced by new members. The new members should to some extent/ideally cover geographic areas of former members (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Australia + Oceania). The president and officers (the secretary and the webmaster) have also served two mandates. Inputs of names, suitable to serve the profession as future IGU CPG Steering Committee members and officers for the mandate 2012 – 2016 are appreciated.
- On other issues: 1.) the CPG IGU Newsletter (<http://www.cas.muohio.edu/igu-cpg/>) lacks on inputs in regard to works, publishing, observations and commentaries of professionals involved in subjects of political geography. The goal is to publish at least two issues in a year. Please write to the editor: anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si; 2.) the CPG IGU Steering Committee is proposing (to the Executive Committee of the IGU) the “Young Scholar Award in Political Geography”. Papers presented at Regional Conferences (like Santiago 2011, Kyoto 2013, ...) or International Geographical Congresses (like Cologne 2012, Beijing 2016) by young postgraduate students or postdoctoral young researchers on political geography should be evaluated by an evaluation team of the IGU CPG Steering Committee and the best should be awarded with a diploma and a cash prize of up to US\$ 200.00; 3.) the CPG IGU Steering Committee is proposing (to the Executive Committee of the IGU) the “Recognition of Commission Chairs”. The work of past/former Chairs of the Commission on Political Geography / Commission on World Political Map should be recognized by a diploma at a ceremony at the occasion of International Geographical Congresses (Cologne 2012, Beijing 2016, ...); 4.) the contemporary political geography celebrates 30 years of IGU existence. The Commission’s beginnings go back into 1984 as, on the occasion of the IGU International Geographical Congress in Paris, the Commission on the World Political Map was established. To celebrate this occasion in a proper, professional manner, the CPG IGU Steering Committee plans to invite former Commission Chairs (Johnston, Knight, van der Wusten, Kolossov, Andre-Louis Sanguin), former and present editors of leading journals in political geography (Agnew, O’Loughlin, Newman, ...) and leading, older members of the profession (Minghi, Cohen, ...) to write an article on the topic in political geography. The main-frame of the book should be applicable as a supporting textbook in classes at universities. Two titles were suggested: “Political Geography at the Dawn of the 21st Century”

and “The Renewal and the Relevance of Political Geography”. Further suggestions on authors and book title are welcome. Publication should be envisioned for 2012. Dr. Yosef Gotlieb (Israel) has expressed interest in editing and publishing the proposed work in electronic and/or print format in the context of the text and publishing studies program he directs. 5.) the idea of directing young scholars to publish in electronic journals was elaborated. The successful example of *L’Espace Politique* (editor: Stephane Rosiere) was named. 6.) Co-operation among IGU commissions is appreciated by the IGU president and the IGU Executive Committee. CPG IGU has had one session at the Tel Aviv conference co-organized with the IGU MRP – Mediterranean Renaissance Program. 7.) CPG IGU envisions co-operation with the IPSA RC15. Two Steering Committee members, (T. Yamazaki and S. Chaturvedi) have made proposals in this regard. Meetings of the CPG IGU (like the Kiev/Crimea meeting) will be promoted as an event where IPSA RC15 members would be invited. In return CPG IGU could participate at IPSA conferences – like at the 2012 Madrid meeting. 8.) Dr. Lynn Staeheli requested to be replaced as Steering Committee member due to her own non-activity in the committee. The replacement will proceed in 2012, as the new Steering Committee will be announced.

Answering the call of the IGU Executive Committee, the Chair of the Commission on Political Geography has forwarded, in accordance with the knowledge he had, the approximate distribution of interested professionals in political geography (= commission members) by countries. To define members of the CPG IGU by country was a difficult task. The enclosed data is based on estimations received through the counting of participants by citizenship on meetings (if available), through list-serve addresses (USA), through memberships in associations related to political geography. /To note is that the IGU commission membership is different than for example the AAG or any other national membership in geographical associations. It is not based on the association membership fee or on professional interest fees./ Some national geographic associations have their own sub-sections on political geography, and their estimates on membership is fairly accurate. If the goal of IGU is to receive approximate numbers of members in regard to interest, this must be a long-term process, with several unified criteria to be implemented: counting of academia teaching professionals, counting of geography professionals working in nation-state institutions, counting participants at appropriate meetings by citizenship, registering students working on topics in geopolitical and political geography themes, etc. But, the topic of political geography could in parts of the world be defined as a delicate professional orientation (critical geopolitics) and could in several countries result into prosecution. The enclosed table should spark discussion among CPG IGU Steering Committee members.

Country	No. of CPG IGU Members	Information provided by
EUROPEAN UNION	600	
United Kingdom	200	Info: Durham
France	100	
Germany	129	Info: CPG IGU Steering Committee Member
Poland	17	Info: CPG IGU Steering Committee Member
Italy	43	Info: CPG IGU Steering Committee Member
Slovenia	39	Info: CPG IGU Steering Committee Member
Romania	25	
Austria	15	
Hungary	15	
Spain	15	
Cyprus	15	
Greece	15	
Sweeden	15	
Netherlands	15	
Finland	15	
Belgium	15	
OTHER EUROPE	50	
Croatia	5	
Serbia	5	
Bosnia & Herzegovina	5	
Switzerland	10	
Russia	15	
NORTH AMERICA	650	Info: PGSG AAG
USA	595	Info: list-serve addresses of PGSG members
Canada	25	
SOUTH AMERICA	25	
AFRIKA	25	
Tunisia	5	
South Africa	5	
ASIA	50	

Japan	10	
India	10	
Israel	10	
AUSTRALIA & OCEANIA	25	
WORLD	1400	

In addition to the meetings in Israel, I was invited to speak on behalf of CPG IGU and on Commission's tasks at conferences in Arlington, Virginia (AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Washington DC pre-conference), in April; Vienna, Austria (Adriatic Forum III) in September; Pecs, Hungary (Hungarian Geographic Conference); Zagreb, Croatia (Applied Geography in Theory and Practice) in November; and in Sapporo and Tokyo, Japan (De-Areanization of Border Studies: The Greater Eurasia and its Neighbours; Toward Networking with World's Border Studies: Japan's Borders in Global Perspective). Thanks to the hospitality of the Japanese host(s), the short visit to Japan provided insights into contemporary border problems of Euro-Asia and, in particular, territories neighboring Japan. The closing of the AAG annual conference in Washington coincided with the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull which prevented several hundred European participants to return to their Alma Mater in time. In regard to the many actions the CPG IGU members have participated at, it was a pleasure to report to the Cape Town IGU Secretariat about the Commission on Political Geography activities.

The dates, titles, locations, number of participants and organizer of meetings the commission has participated in 2010:

2010	Newcastle, United Kingdom	January 8 – 9	BIC 2010: Borders And Identities Conference	100	Dr. Dominic Watt
	Oradea, Romania	May 5 – 8	Borders and Identities	50	Dr. Alexandru Ilies; University of Oradea
	Beer Sheva, Israel	July 6 - 11	Borders, Territory and Conflict In a Globalizing World –2010 (David Newman);	90	Dr. David Newman, CPG IGU
	Tel Aviv, Israel	July 12 – 17	IGU Regional Conference 2010 (6 sessions + 1 joint session with the Mediterranean Renaissance Program	50	Dr. David Newman, Dr. Anton Gosar, IGU
	Glubczyce-Opava; Poland/Czech Republic	September 22 – 24	Historical Regions in the Structures of the EU;	60	Dr. Marek Sobczynski
	Vienna, Austria	September 23 – 25	Adriatic Forum III: Regional Development and Regionalization	80	Dr. Peter Jordan, Austrian Academy of Sciences
	Sapporo, Japan	December, 2 – 3	De-Areanization of Border Studies: The Greater Eurasia and its Neighbours	50	Dr. Akihiro Iwashita, Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University
	Tokyo, Japan	December, 6-7	Toward Networking with World's Border Studies: Japan's Borders in Global Perspective	40	Dr. Akihiro Iwashita / Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Looking into future we should, according to the IGU Executive Committee and President Ron Ablar, focus on activities related to the next IGU regional conference in Chile, South America and the IGU main conference event in Germany, Europe. The website for the 14-18 November 2011 IGU Regional Conference in Santiago de Chile (<http://www.ugi2011.cl/>) has been up and running for some months now. Electronic abstract submission was launched in October. Contact Mr. Edwin Hunt for information regarding commission meetings at the Conference at info@ugi2011.cl. I have, as CPG IGU Chair, asked Prof. Andre-Louis Sanguin to act as coordinator of our activities at the IGU Regional conference in Santiago de Chile. Please, submit abstracts, in addition to the official webpage, to professor Sanguin's address (al.sanguin@orange.fr) as well. The registration and submission deadline is approaching. At this regional conference we will not organize a pre-conference related to political geography. IGU provides travel grants for those interested in attending the conference. One can read more about this opportunity (and fill out the adequate form) at http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/4033919/556222427/name/Grant_UGI.pdf! Applications should reach the IGU Secretariat by March 10, 2011. All related questions should be addressed to Mike Meadows (mmeadows@mweb.co.za).

Everyone is invited to pre-register for the The Cologne-Germany 2012 IGU conference which is going to take place August 26 – 30, 2012 (http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder_id=53&ses_id=89841d906858d05231525a39411fe22e). We are planning to organize a CPG IGU pre-conference in Frankfurt/Main, Germany (August 24 – 25, 2012) and have therefore asked our Steering Committee member Paul Reuber (p.reuber@uni-muenster.de) and our Frankfurt colleague Veit Bachmann (Bachmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de) to act as local organizers. Paul Reuber will also act as link to the organizing committee of the main conference and will co-organize sessions on topics of political geography in Cologne (http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=240&ses_id=0a5b2d5138751fe8f95c99ecfaf3f14b).

We will place a CPG IGU Membership Form on the Web-page soon. The form will ask interested geographers and friends of the subject of political geography about their name, address (in part optional) and country of residence. We would then consider them as members of the IGU Commission on Political Geography. The form will also have an optional part where members (new and old) could elaborate on their specific interest in the profession. The Acknowledgement to past Commission Chairs (see above) is in hands of the IGU Executive Committee. We have forwarded our interest and names of former Chairs: Ronald Johnston (United Kingdom), David Knight (Canada), Herman van der Wusten (Netherlands), Vladimir Kolossov (Russia), Andre-Louis Sanguin (France). The intention to publish their thoughts on the profession in a monograph is, at present, at a standstill because just two of the above named chairs have expressed interest and forwarded abstracts on the topic to be elaborated. I am looking forward to some better news on this issue in the next Newsletter! Also, there is a lack of Steering Committee members and CPG IGU members (existing or want-to be) interest in publishing their own thoughts,

experiences and reporting on publications, works, etc. in the Commission on Political Geography Newsletter. I am also looking forward to many more related subjects to report on in the next Newsletter!

Greetings from Slovenia!

Anton

II - Future Events

107th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS; SEATTLE, WA.; April 12 – 16, 2010

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND SEXUALITY AND SPACE SPECIALTY GROUPS PRE-CONFERENCE

TACOMA, WASHINGTON; April 10-11, 2011

The registration for the Joint Political Geography/Sexuality & Space Specialty Groups Pre-Conference in Tacoma, Washington on April 10-11 is now available under http://www.tacoma.washington.edu:80/conference/events/pgs/index_form.cfm. If you have previously submitted a paper or session proposal, you still need to register for the conference. The registration fee is \$20 per person until April 1, after which time it will be \$30. The fee is waived for students! More information about the conference, transportation, accommodations, and instructions on how to submit your paper or session proposal is posted at <http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/conference/events/pgs/index.html>. This year the Political Geography and Sexuality and Space Specialty Groups are co-sponsoring a pre-conference on the University of Washington Tacoma campus immediately prior to the start of the Association of American Geographers conference in Seattle. Participation is not limited to specialty group members and we welcome paper and panel proposals on a wide range of topics related to political geography, sexuality and space, and/or the overlaps and interconnections between the two. To submit a paper or session proposal, please send a title, abstract, and complete author/organizer contact information to Larry Knopp (knopp@uw.edu) or Mark Pendas (pendras@uw.edu) no later than March 1, 2011. The pre-conference will begin midday on Sunday, April 10, and will feature a keynote address by Dr. Lynn Staeheli, Professor of Geography at Durham University in the United Kingdom. The [University of Washington Tacoma](http://www.uw.edu) campus is located in downtown Tacoma's vibrant and beautifully renovated museum district. Accommodations within walking distance include the [Courtyard by Marriott](http://www.marriott.com) and the [Hotel Murano](http://www.hotelmurano.com). The [Best Western Tacoma Dome](http://www.bestwestern.com) is a short (approx. 5 minutes) free tram ride away. All three offer room rates that are considerably cheaper than hotel rates in downtown Seattle (including AAG conference rates). In addition, downtown Seattle and Tacoma are accessible to one another via commuter train and express busses from early morning until late evening. The trip takes less than an hour.

FENCES, WALLS AND BORDERS: STATE OF INSECURITY?

MONTREAL, QUEBEC; May 17 – 18, 2011

Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the question still remains "Do good fences still make good neighbours"? Since the Great Wall of China, construction of which began under the Qin dynasty, the Antonine Wall, built in Scotland to support Hadrian's Wall, the Roman "Limes" or the Danevirke fence, the "wall" has been a constant in the protection of defined entities claiming sovereignty, East and West. But is the wall more than an historical relic for the management of borders? In recent years the wall has been given renewed vigour in North America, particularly along the U.S.-Mexico border, and in Israel-Palestine. But the success of these new walls in the development of friendly and orderly relations between nations (or indeed, within nations) remains unclear. What role does the wall play in the development of security and insecurity? Do walls contribute to a sense of insecurity as much as they assuage fears and create a sense of security for those 'behind the line'? Exactly what kind of security is associated with border walls? Organizers: Charles-Philippe David, Raoul-Dandurand Chair and Full Professor of Political Science, UQAM; Élisabeth Vallet, Adjunct Professor, Department of Geography and Research director of Geopolitics at the Raoul-Dandurand Chair UQAM; Heather Nicol, Professor of Geography, Trent University, President (2011-2012), Association for Borderlands Studies. On-line Registration : www.dandurand.uqam.ca!

ASPECTS OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN IDENTITY

ZADAR, CROATIA; September 14 – 15, 2011

The IGU Working Group on Central Europe will have its annual meeting entitled Aspects of Central European identity in Zadar. The meeting will focus on trans-border projects and project ideas related to Central Europe in the widest sense. Please register for the event by contacting peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at before June 30, 2011. The meeting is organized in conjunction with the 4th conference of the Adriatic Forum on the topic "Geopolitical issues of the Adriatic space" (16-17 September 2011) offering the opportunity to participate in both events. Zadar and the Dalmatian coast are easily accessible on motorways and by air (Germanwings serves Zadar directly from Berlin-Schönefeld, Dresden, Friedrichshafen, Cologne/Bonn, Leipzig/Halle, Munich, Stuttgart, Vienna). German and English are permitted as working languages.

4TH CONFERENCE OF THE ADRIATIC FORUM: GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES OF THE ADRIATIC – YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

ZADAR, CROATIA; September 16-18, 2011

The Department of Geography of the University of Zadar in cooperation with the Croatian Geographical Society is organizing the Adriatic Forum IV international conference. The 4th 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, 27-28 November 2008, organised under the direction of Prof. Milan BUFOŃ by the Science and Research Centre of Koper/Capodistria and the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska, of the 2nd Conference titled Construction and Deconstruction of Nationalism and Regionalism: A Long Journey to Europe, held in Trieste, 1-2 October 2009, organised under the direction of Prof. Maria Paola PAGNINI by the University of Trieste, and of the 3rd Conference titled Regional Development and Regionalisation held in Vienna, 22-25 October 2010, organised under the direction of Prof. Peter JORDAN by the Institute of Urban and Regional Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences. The thematic frame of the Adriatic Forum IV - "Geopolitical Issues of the Adriatic – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" corresponds to global and European challenges as well as to demands for research in the wider Adriatic region. Political geographers and geopoliticians as well as regional, cultural and social geographers, spatial planners, geographers of tourism and transportation can feel especially addressed. But studies from other fields of geography and interdisciplinary approaches are invited as well and considered an added value. The Adriatic space in the sense of the coastlands of the Adriatic Sea and their hinterlands is to be the focus of this conference in regional terms. Topics to be discussed are: Political changes in Adriatic area throughout history, Changes of borders, Border disputes, Spatial socio-economic disparities, Urban and rural development, Adriatic area on

old maps, Effect of political changes on demographic changes, Regional economic structures and developments, Migration flows and regimes, Tourism as a factor for the development of border areas, Regionalisation and political-administrative changes, Regional and cross-border cooperation, Regional economic integration and National and regional atlases. Full papers sent by 31 July 2011 will be published in Geoadria, scientific journal published by the Department of Geography, University of Zadar, and Croatian Geographical Society – Zadar. The official language of the Conference will be English and no translation facilities will be available.

Registration: Early registration (deadline 15 April 2011) – €60; Standard registration (deadline 1 July 2011) – €80; Late registration (after 1 July 2011) – €100. The fee includes: conference materials, coffee breaks, lunch (first day of the conference) and book of abstracts. Payments should be addressed to: University of Zadar, Mihovila Pavlinovića bb, 23 000 Zadar, Croatia. Bank Address: Splitska banka d. d. – Societe Generale Group; Bank account: 20015635002 (EUR); IBAN: HR53 2330 0031 1001 6324 3; SWIFT: SOGEHR22 (as payment purpose indicate: invoice 60300). Registration and submission of abstracts should be made before April 15, 2011 (ask for the registration form: vgraovac@unizd.hr). Deadline for sending full papers (that will be published in Geoadria!) is July 31, 2011. Please, send registration form and abstract to vgraovac@unizd.hr !

TERRITORIAL IDENTITY AND GEOPOLITICS

KIEV – CRIMEA, UKRAINE – September 18 – 23, 2011

The National Committee of Geographers of Ukraine and the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine as well as the Tavrian G. I. Vernadsky National University are organizing the annual conference of the Commission on Political Geography. The address of the Organizing Committee: Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Volodymyrska str., 44, Kyiv 01034 Ukraine. Phone: +380 (44) 234-61-93, mobile phone: +380(50) 386-73-24 (scientific secretary of the conference), fax: +380 (44) 234-32-30.

The main objects of the conference is to discuss the state of research in the field of territorial identity, the impact of globalization on its evolution in different geographical and geopolitical conditions, the relation between the problem of identity with other directions of geographical studies, their practical importance in the understanding of current shifts in social and political processes in the world and in state-building in different countries. Topics of A.) Statehood and territorial identity (modern state, state building, kinds of territorial identities, historical memory and identity building, geographical images, neotribalism, world geopolitical vision); B.) Globalization and territorial identities (space of flows, networks, territory and sovereignty, cultural diversity and multiculturalism, factors and actors of international integration, delimitation of international regions, cross-border spaces, identity and cross-border cooperation); C.) State-building and territorial identities in Ukraine and other post-Soviet states (fragmentation of socio-cultural space, administrative reforms, regionalization) will be discussed.

One should register before April 1, 2011 and submit abstract before June 1, 2011. The conference fee is € 300,00 (before June 1, 2011) or € 350,00 (late registration). The registration form and a detailed outline of the program are available at the CPG IGU link and should be sent to geo_conf2011@ukr.net. The registration fee includes: abstracts of presentations (a hard version and CD); materials for excursions; interpreter's service; excursion in Kiev; transfer from Kiev to Simferopol by a night train and transfer from Simferopol to the Southern Coast by bus; accommodation on the Southern Coast of Crimea (two nights); lunch on the days of the conference; coffee breaks on the days of the conference; the conference dinner, one-day Crimea excursion (all included), transfer from Sevastopol to Kyiv by a night train. The registration fee should be transferred through the banking systems "Western Union", PrivatMoney (CIS), "MoneyGram", "Unistream". The beneficiary name is Mozgovyi Artem, Ukraine, Kyiv. Please, let the Organizing Committee know the number of the banking transfer. Abstracts: up to 3 standard A4 pages (Times New Roman 12, single spaced, pages not numbered).

(RE)INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN MULTICULTURAL AND BORDER REGIONS

PORTOROŽ-PORTOROSE, SLOVENIA; September 22 - 24

The Institute for Geographical Studies and the Institute for Mediterranean Humanities and Social Studies of the Science and Research Centre of the University of Primorska (Koper, Slovenia) are organizing an international conference open to scholars of various disciplines who may contribute to the analysis of the geopolitical, historical, cultural, social and economic aspects related to divergence and convergence processes and (re)integration perspectives and policies in multicultural and border regions. The aim of the conference is to give an assessment of past developments and conflict resolutions, an analysis of current situations and problems concerning spatial and social cross-border and inter-cultural integration/disintegration, and an evaluation of future trends and opportunities for co-operation and development within a broader European and global context. The conference language is English. Participants are required to send the title of the paper/presentation along with a one-page long abstract, and the registration form to the organizer by April 30, 2011 (conference2011@zrs.upr.si). The conference fee is set at € 150 and includes programme materials, the book of abstracts, admission to all sessions, coffee breaks, and the social dinner. The conference fee will not include other items, such as excursions and other possible activities/events. Doctoral and post-doctoral students/researchers are welcome, both with oral and poster presentations. They will also benefit of a reduced conference fee (€ 80). Accompanying persons will be charged only for the effective costs of the attending activities/events at the spot. For registration forms and further information please contact via E-mail, Fax or Mail the Conference Office Conference Secretaries: Mrs. Vesna Markelj (vesna.markelj@zrs.upr.si) or Mrs. Ana Kralj (ana.kralj@zrs.upr.si) at the Science and Research Centre, University of Primorska, Garibaldijeva 1, SI-6000 KOPER/CAPODISTRIA, Slovenia; Tel.: **386 5 663 7700; Fax.: ** 386 5 663 7710.

IGU REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE: UNITED AND INTERGRATED WITH THE WORLD

SANTIGAO, CHILE; November 14 – 18, 2011

The IGU regional Geographic Conference will be held at Escuela Militar, Santiago – Chile. The system for submission of papers and posters is now available to authors. This is the sole means of submitting for UGI 2011 and it also provides all information needed for participating. Early registration (June 28, 2011) is \$ 240.000 (= Chilean Pesos - \$ 500 = 1 US\$). Abstracts should be entered into the system for assessment by the Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC) of LOC UGI 2011. Deadline for abstract submission is March 1, 2011. Go to www.ugi2011.cl to submit your abstract! The Commission on Political Geography (CPG IGU) intends to present papers at the IGU Regional Conference 2011 in Santiago, Chile. CPG IGU most likely, will have 3 sessions on the following general topics:

- Disputes over territory (border related problems);
- Relationship between cultures and politics (ethnic & minority problems/center-periphery relationship);
- Post-modern developments and threats (terrorism, global warming, management of human (migration) and natural (energy) resources, ...)

CPG IGU is not planning to organize a pre-conference. In agreement with Mr. Edwin Hunt, Communications Sub-Committee, Local Organising Committee for UGI 2011 (info@ugi2011.cl) and me, Professor Andre-Louis Sanguin (al.sanguin@orange.fr) will act as special envoy (= coordinator) of the Commission on Political Geography (C.030) at the Santiago Conference and will inform the Steering Committee and CPG IGU on nature of the co-operation. The CPG IGU Steering Committee will have an input into the final structure of the program of sessions.

BORDERSCAPES III

LAGO DI COMO, ITALY; June 2012

Six years after the first successful IGU-CPG meeting on *Borderscapes*: "Spaces in conflict/symbolic places/network of peace", held in Trento (Italy) another international conference on identical topics should take place in Italy in June 2012. Further info (when available) at CPG IGU Steering Committee member Elena dell'Agnese, University of Milano-Bicocca address (elena.dellagnese@unimib.it) and here!

DOWN TO EARTH – 32nd INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE; COLOGNE, GERMANY; August, 26 - 30 2012

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS PRE-CONFERENCE 2012

FRANKFURT/MAIN, GERMANY ; August, 24 – 25, 2012

Just prior to the IGU 2012 in Cologne a Pre-conference on Political Geography and Critical Geopolitics will be held in Frankfurt, Germany on 24/25 August 2012. The conference is organized by the Commission on Political Geography (CPG) of the IGU, the German Arbeitskreis Politische Geographie and hosted by the Department of Human Geography of the Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main. It will provide a forum for exchange for political geographers prior to the larger IGU meeting in Cologne with the goal to move forward current conceptual, methodological and empirical research agendas in Political Geography and Critical Geopolitics. The conference will comprise two strands: One that calls for contributions related to the integration and disintegration of nation-states. The other one will be a thematically open call for submissions from the two subdisciplines. To ensure high levels of academic quality at the conference, submitted abstract will be reviewed by an international committee before acceptance. We particularly encourage scholars from non-high-income countries to contribute to the conference with their research. Conference fee will be € 50 (students €30). More information and a call for papers will be issued shortly. Further info is available from CPG IGU Steering Committee members Paul Reuber (p.reuber@uni-muenster.de), University of Muenster and Veit Bachmann (Bachmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de), University of Frankfurt.

32nd 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, the CPG IGU Steering Committee, have decided to organize the Commission on Political Geography pre-conference in Frankfurt/Main (see above) and participate with 4 – 6 sessions (Disputes over Territory; Global Economic Interplay; Relationship between Cultures and Politics; Democratic Structures and their Spatial Implementation; Geography of Political Representation; Post-modern Developments and Threats).

According to the new concept, the International Geographical Congress 2012 in Cologne will feature two major parts, which also require different, but coordinated, procedures and deadlines (see figure below): Firstly, sessions organised by the IGU Commissions and Task Forces and, secondly, sessions submitted under the open call for session and related to the four key topics of the IGC: Global Change & Globalisation, Society & Environment, Risks & Conflicts, Urbanisation & Demographic Change. As to the second part, the open call for sessions under the four key topics, a two-step application process has been introduced, reflecting the intention of guaranteeing a selection of sessions at the current cutting edge of research. The first step is an open Call for Sessions, published on 1st July 2010. All interested geographers are invited to submit proposals for themed sessions under the four key topics before the closing deadline on 1st April 2011. A session has to be chaired by two researchers, will last 80 minutes and should contain a minimum of four presentations. All sessions proposed under the open Call for Sessions will be reviewed by an International Scientific Committee. The results of the selection process will be announced by 15th June 2011. On the basis of the Scientific Committee's selection a provisional programme will be produced. Then, in a second step, a Call for Papers will be published on 1st July 2011. Papers may then be handed-in for specific sessions via the online paper submission system before the closing deadline on 15th December 2011. The selection of papers for each session via the online review system will be the responsibility of the session chairs. Participants will be informed in time to avail of early registration for the reduced IGC conference fee. Further info: [http://www.igc2012.org/!](http://www.igc2012.org/)

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

EUGENE, OREGON; June 2013

According to the decisions made at the CPG IGU Tel Aviv Business Meeting, the 2013 annual conference of the Commission on Political Geography will be held in Eugene, Oregon and should discuss the relation between environment and politics. Further info (when available) at CPG IGU Steering Committee member Alexander Murphy, University of Oregon address (amurphy@uoregon.edu) and here.

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE: TRADITIONAL WISDOM AND MODERN KNOWLEDGE FOR THE EARTH'S FUTURE

KYOTO, JAPAN; August 4 – 9, 2013

The National Committee of Japan and The Science Council of Japan are organizing the next Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union in Kyoto, Japan (August 4 – 9, 2013) within premises of the Kyoto International Conference Center (<http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/hgeog/igu2013/igu2013.html>). The major direction of the conference will be related to the heavy environmental burden humans have imposed on Earth. According to the title of the conference we should return to traditional wisdom and implement modern knowledge for the Earth's future. CPG IGU Steering Committee member Takashi Yamazaki ([yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yamatoka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp)) is also a member of the Organizing Committee and will act on our behalf. We are planning to arrange a pre/post conference in accordance to directions of the Kyoto organizing committee.

III – Past Events

106th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS, WASHINGTON DC, April 12 – 16, 2011

Members of the Political Geography Specialty Group (PGSG) of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) were active in organizing paper sessions and panel discussions at the 106th annual meeting of the AAG. The 2010 meeting was held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel and Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC (April 14 – 18, 2010). The traditional **PGSG Pre-Conference** was held at Virginia Tech's campus on 1021 Prince Street, Old Town Alexandria, Virginia on April 11 and 12, 2010.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE TEL AVIV 2010: BRIDGING DIVERSITY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, July 12 – 16, 2010

CPG IGU PRE-CONFERENCE: BORDERS, TERRITORY AND CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD

BEER SHEVA, ISRAEL, July 6 – 11, 2010

Let me inform you that, for the first time in history, geographers from all over the world have met in Israel. Several departments of Israeli universities have, in addition to the main Tel Aviv meeting, organized pre- and/or post-conferences. Political geographers had their main event at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, where the departments of geography and political science organized a conference entitled "Borders, Territory and Conflict in a Globalizing World" (July 7 – 11, 2010). The lead organizer of the conference was the secretary of the Commission on Political Geography of the International Geographical Union (CPG IGU) Professor David Newman. About 50 professionals in political geography officially registered, and about 100 interested students, scientists, politicians and members of the civic society participated. Thanks to dynamic Steering Committee members of the CPG IGU, political geography has high a reputation in the profession and in the politics of the world. According to Ron Abler, president of the International Geographical Union, "CPG IGU is among the rare hard working commissions of the IGU". On average, the members of the CPG Steering Committee organize at least two conferences on topics of political geography and publish a similar number of proceedings each year. The July 2010 conference at the premises of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev was definitely an example of the excellence in the profession.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE TEL AVIV 2010: BRIDGING DIVERSITY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, July 12 – 16, 2010

The Tel Aviv conference had two plenary sessions devoted to political geography and six panels where political geography was discussed. The IGU Commission on Political Geography is proud to have had a central position at the conference. We, the Commission on Political Geography, have pledged to be present at the next IGU Regional conference in Santiago de Chile (Nov. 14 - 18, 2011) and at the "big event", the 32th World Geography Congress "Down to Earth" in Koeln (Cologne, Germany: August 26 – 30, 2012). But let me reproduce the article on our meeting in *The Jerusalem Post* written by David Newman, the co-coordinator of the interests of the CPG IGU at the main event (Borderline Views: Academics and the Public Discourse; July 12, 2010):

The International Geographical Union is holding its biannual regional conference in Tel Aviv this week. A bit like the World Cup, the international venues for these major academic and scientific events are chosen years in advance, and it takes the local associations years of hard work and organization to put the meetings in place. Different countries and regions lobby to have the event take place in their own backyards, drawing on the expertise and international recognition of scholars in the field to put forward their claim. In the case of Israel, the proponents also had to deal with those who did not want to come here, for a mixture of security and political reasons. There were groups who attempted to boycott the event and the pre-conference workshops and tried to persuade their colleagues not to attend. But with few exceptions, they were unsuccessful and, as a result, hundreds of geographers, planners and environmentalists are gathering in Tel Aviv this week for their conference, workshops and field trips.

Ask a child at school which are his/her most boring subjects and, invariably, they will choose geography, history and archeology. And yet, in countries such as Israel, where the national conflict and the competing claims to territory, land ownership and sovereignty are central to the daily discourse, there is nothing more relevant to political life than these three disciplines. Geography is about who controls land, how settlements are planned and constructed and where and how are the state borders demarcated and delimited. History is about the study of the competing and alternative narratives and claims to sovereignty, each using its own – often exclusive – histories and texts to strengthen its political claims. Archeology is often about the respective desires to prove that "my" group was here first, that "we" have priority in our claims to the land and that the discovered artifacts or bones at dig sites are part of ancient Jewish or Palestinian tradition (when in most cases they are neither). IT IS not therefore surprising that when the archeologist Albert Glock died under mysterious circumstances some 20 years ago, Palestinian groups argued that he had secretly been murdered by the Mossad because of his claims to Palestinian antiquity, or that when Arab geographer Ghazi Falah, a graduate of the Hebrew University, began to discuss alternative narratives about Arab and Bedouin land rights in Israel, (in the 1980s – long before it became acceptable to discuss the rights of the other side), he was shunned by the Israeli geographical community and had to seek employment in North America. At a later point he was even arrested by state authorities on one of his visits to Israel to see his family, kept in detention for almost a month, before he was released without any charges being filed against him. And for what? For being a geographer who offered an alternative explanation to that of the establishment geographic community in a country where matters pertaining to land control, planning and territorial claims are central to our understanding of the ongoing conflict. Many argue that academics should remain solely as the creators of knowledge and should not use their expertise to take part in the public discourse or political debate, because they have to remain "neutral" or "objective," But there is no such thing as total objectivity in the social sciences, while remaining entirely outside the public debate would be a betrayal of our role as social scientists. It is insufficient simply to be the technicians who collect and collate data. We are required to use our knowledge to contribute toward the social and political agendas of the day. Of course, a knowledge-based discourse must be balanced, not one-sided and certainly not polemical – that is for the politicians. But the data and information that we create must be used to enrich and educate the public debate. And if such information throws up alternative and competing understandings of reality, as a society which places great value on education and knowledge, we have to be able to grapple with these facts, rather than shun them because they

don't suit our own exclusive political understandings of what is right and what is wrong. Academics and scientists living outside Israel who want to become involved in our political discourse need to discover the facts and the data for themselves before taking a stand which either blindly supports Israel in everything it does, or alternately promotes boycotts of entire national communities. They need to see, meet and hear both Israeli and Palestinian academics discuss their own research projects and how they contribute to alternative understandings of a complex reality, in which there is no single truth or exclusive claim to land. ONE OF the organizations which contributes a great deal to this form of knowledge based understanding is the Academic Study Group operating out of the UK. Working over almost three decades on a shoestring budget (largely because it insists on retaining its academic independence and its scientific neutrality), it brings groups of British and Israeli scholars together for weeklong symposia and research workshops. They share their research findings and create joint research agendas. As a by-product, they learn from each other, and about each other, reaching a more balanced understanding of the respective rights and wrongs of the political situation. Politics does not frame their dialogue or cooperation, but the meeting between scholars holding different views obviously enriches their mutual understandings of just where the "other" is coming from. The hundreds of international geographers who are here this week will hold diverse views about the situation. They have not come here out of a particular like or dislike of Israel but as part of an international community of scholars who want to meet their Israeli colleagues and to mutually enrich their knowledge and understanding of our complex reality – of how human spaces and territories are formed and contested. It is unfortunate that the hosting organization is only the Israel Geographical Association rather than a combined effort of the Israeli and Palestinian geographical associations. It is also unfortunate that, apart from the field trips organized by the political geography workshop, most participants will not get to see the realities of what is happening in the West Bank, or among the Bedouin communities in the Negev. There is still much to put right in the way that we, as an Israeli academic community, become more inclusive and provide a forum for alternative narratives. But we can also be proud of the fact that we are hosting such a large group of international scholars and will hope that they will return home with a better sense of the complex realities which this region has to deal with on a daily basis.

**12th 'LODZ' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HISTORICAL REGIONS IN
THE STRUCTURES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, GLUBCZYCE-OPAVA,
September 22-24, 2010**

The 12th International 'Lodz' Political Geography Conference on *Historical Regions in the Structures of the European Union* was held in Glubczyce (Poland) and Opava (Czech Republic) at September 22 – 24, 2010. The organizers were: Department of Political Geography and Regional Studies University of Lodz (Prof. Marek Sobczynski, CPG IGU Steering Committee member), Silesian Institute in Opole, Polish Geographical Society Branch of Lodz and Faculty of Public Policies Silesian University of Opava. 31 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Slovenia had 18 papers in 6 sessions. The substantive aim of the conference was a discussion over the issue concerning the role of historical regions in the process of European integration. The following problems were discussed: Historical divisions of the territory in different states of the world, Historical regions in West European EU member states, Historical regions on the Eastern borderland of the EU, Historical regions in Central Europe, Historical region of Silesia, Historical regions in Alpen-Adria Region. The summary was presented by Prof. Krystian Heffner from Silesian Institute in Opole. Debaters emphasized the significance of the conference for defining the role of the historical regions in the process of the European integration. For future conferences of this cycle, they indicated the necessity of undertaking the issue eastern politics of EU. The proposal of the organizers to hold the next 13th International 'Lodz' Conference on Political Geography in September 2012 on Polish-Ukrainian borderland in Chelm and Luck was accepted. The conference contained three scientific excursions in Racibórz, and Opole Silesia and Czech Silesia and Opava – Hradek on Czech-Polish borderlands. Information was provided by Professor Marek Sobczynski.

**3ND "ADRIATIC FORUM": REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONALISATION
WIEN/VIENNA, September 23 - 24, 2010**

The Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Vienna was organizing the 3rd Adriatic Forum in Vienna, Austria. The thematic frame "Regional development and regionalisation" corresponded to global and European challenges as well as to demands for research in the wider Adriatic region. Participants discussed the following topics: Spatial socio-economic disparities; Urban and rural development; Regional demographic structures and developments; Regional economic structures and developments; Effects of EU regional and cohesion policies; Migration flows and regimes; Tourism as a factor of regional development; Regionalisation and political-administrative decentralisation; Regionalism; Regional and cross-border cooperation; Regional economic integration; Transfer of the *Acquis communautaire* to Southeast European countries; The Adriatic space as a macroregion: functional relations within the region, inclusion of hinterlands (especially in the Alps, in the Danubian space and in Southeast Europe), its position in the wider Europe; Development of transportation networks as a means of regional development and integration (seaports and their hinterland connections, TEN-T networks, etc.); National and regional (in the sense of subnational as well as macroregional) atlases. Organizer of the conference was Professor Peter Jordan who is the Editor-in-Chief of Atlas of Eastern and South- Eastern Europe (peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at and peter.jordan@univie.ac.at). The 3rd Conference of the "Adriatic Forum" in Vienna was the follow-up of the First Conference of Geographers of the Upper Adriatic – Joint Management of a Borderless Area, held in Koper/Capodistria 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.

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MEETING OF THE WORKING CIRCLE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY: THE GEOGRAPHIES OF THE POLITICAL!

MUNSTER, GERMANY; October 22 – 23, 2010

The meeting of German speaking political geographers was organized by the Institute of Geography of the University of Muenster. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the present-day reality as political decisions and their spatial implementations are changing to large extent. Decision makers and institutions of the government have entered into new relationships as nation-state governance fades away and as increasingly local, regional and international bodies take initiatives and actions into their own hands. The conflicts are to be found in the transnational area of interactions between humans and the environment as well as in the discussion of the rights of city(ies). Information was provided by Professor Paul Reuber.

2nd International Symposium of the Global COE Program "Reshaping Japan's Border Studies"

DE-AREANIZATION OF BORDER STUDIES: THE GREAT EURASIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

SAPPORO, JAPAN; December 3 – 5, 2010

The international conference was organized on the premises of the Hokkaido University and hosted by the Slavic Research Center. Leading international experts on border studies from various disciplines attended the conference. Day One was reserved for young researchers to present their research, most often within their master and doctoral thesis; Day Two was aimed at the interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge and experience between Japanese and foreign, invited guests; Day Three was devoted to the experience of the native culture of the Island of Hokkaido. Judging on discussions, Japanese scientists are paving the path towards solving several problems related to border areas and border delineations.

TOWARD NETWORKING WITH WORLD'S BORDER STUDIES: JAPAN'S BORDERS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

TOKYO, JAPAN; December 6, 2010

The international conference was organized by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Japan and the Slavic Research Center at Hokkaido University in Tokyo, Japan. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation has been supporting the project "Establishment of Japan's Network on International Border Studies" promoted by the Slavic Research Center at the Hokkaido University as part of the project "Efforts to Ensure Peace and Security in the International Community". This project intends to establish a forum for the specific discussion among practitioners as well as academia regarding the policy challenges of Japan's border (or borderland) communities and to network with the international community of border studies. While much of the media's attention has focused only on sensational territorial issues, such as the Senkaku Islands and the Northern Territories, this institution is taking a rather different approach to the matter by building and elaborating on previous discussions and works by international border studies experts while dealing with specific topics and themes that face practitioners and academics in Japan's border regions. Through such relentless and persistent efforts, we hope to search for a breakthrough and/or new perspectives on relations with our neighboring countries as well as Japan's national security. The Hokkaido University Global COE Program "Reshaping Japan's Border Studies" together with the Japan Society for Island Studies, City of Tsushima, and Kyushu Association for Economic Cooperation co-hosted the "Borderlands Forum in Tsushima Island" on November 12-14, and representatives from 14 local governments including Pusan City of Korea came together to present and discuss the challenges that face each local community, such as those that stem from territorial issues, friction in promoting economic or social exchanges with one's neighboring countries, as well as issues of marine debris. The aim of this seminar is to reconsider the policies of the local governments through the recapitulation of the achievements at the Tsushima Forum together with some international case studies for the establishment of the border studies network in Japan. The seminar was open to public and everyone was welcome. Information provided by Professor Akihiro Iwashita.

IV - Members' projects, writings, travels and other activities.

- Last December (2010) Takashi Yamazaki (Osaka City University) published a Japanese textbook on political geography. This is the very first textbook published by a single author on this topic in postwar Japan. The title of the book is "Seiji, kukan, basho: seiji no chirigaku ni mukete" (Space, Place, and Politics: Toward a Geography of Politics) and is distributed by Nakanishiya.
- At the Closed Session of the 10th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) on August 5th 2010, which was held at the Sheba Hotel, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, it was agreed that the Indian Ocean Research Group (IORG) Inc. be granted Observer Status to IOR-ARC. As a regional editor (South and Southeast Asia) of the newly launched The Polar Journal (Routledge, <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/RPOL>), Sanjay Chaturvedi is very much looking forward to receiving submissions from the IGU members.
- Dr. Sanjay Chaturvedi published: "Geopolitics of Fear and the Emergence of 'Climate Refugees': Imaginative Geographies of Climate Change and Displacements in Bangladesh", *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region* (Routledge) 2010, 6(2): 206-222. (Co-authored with Timothy Doyle) "Geopolitics of climate change and Australia's 'reengagement with Asia: discourses of fear and cartographic anxieties", *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 2010, 45(1): 95-115. (Co-authored with Timothy Doyle) "Climate Territories: A Global Soul for the Global South?" *Geopolitics* (Routledge), 2010, 15(4): 1-20. (Co-authored with Timothy Doyle)
- Professor Sanjay Chaturvedi has been selected as Honorary Fellow, Asia Society, New York (<http://asiasociety.org/about/people/fellows/associate>).
- At the University of Oradea several authors - under the coordination of Jan Wendt and reviewers Alexandru Ilies and Tadeusz Palmowski - have contributed their views on "Chosen Problems of Geographical Research in Poland and Romania" among which topics dealing with "the risk analyses and human security" (A. Kis) and "the cross-border co-operation between Romanian and Hungarian authorities for water management" could be of interest to political geographers.
- Since April 2010 the book "Andre Siegfried – the visionary humanist in political geography" (in French), written by Andre-Louis Sanguin, is available at bookstores.

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: January 31, 2011.