



**International Geographical Union  
Commission on Political Geography**  
[www.cas.sc.edu/geog/cpg](http://www.cas.sc.edu/geog/cpg)  
**NEWSLETTER 15**  
**(August 2012)**  
*Edited by Anton Gosar*

**Chair/President**

**Prof. Anton Gosar**

Department of Geography  
Faculty of Humanities,  
University of Primorska  
Titov trg 4  
SI-6000 Koper-Capodistria,, Slovenia  
e-mail: [anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si](mailto:anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si)

**Secretary / Secrétaire:**

**Prof. David NEWMAN**

Department of Politics and Government  
Ben Gurion University of the Negev  
P.O. Box 653  
84105 Beer Sheva, Israel  
e-mail : [newman@bgumail.bgu.ac.il](mailto:newman@bgumail.bgu.ac.il)

**Steering Committee /  
Comité de Direction:**

**Prof. Sanjay CHATURVEDI**

Centre for the Study of Geopolitics  
Department of Political Science  
Arts Block VI  
Panjab University  
Chandigarh 160 014  
India  
e-mail : [sanjay@pu.ac.in](mailto:sanjay@pu.ac.in)

**Prof. Alexandru ILIES**

Department of Geography  
University of Oradea  
Str. Armata Romana 5  
410078 Oradea, Romania  
e-mail : [ilies@uoradea.ro](mailto:ilies@uoradea.ro)

**Dr. Maano RAMUTSINDELA**

Department of Environmental and Geographical Science  
University of Cape Town  
Private Bag  
7701 Rondebosch, South Africa  
e-mail : [maano@enviro.uct.ac.za](mailto:maano@enviro.uct.ac.za)

**Prof. Stéphane ROSIÈRE**

Department of Geography  
University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne  
UFR Lettres et Sciences humaines  
57, rue Pierre Taittinger  
51100 REIMS, France  
email: [stephane.rosiere@univ-reims.fr](mailto:stephane.rosiere@univ-reims.fr)

**Prof. Takashi YAMAZAKI**

Department of Geography  
Osaka City University  
Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku  
5588585 Osaka, Japan  
e-mail : [yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp)

**Webmaster:**

**Prof. Carl DAHLMAN**

Department of Geography  
Miami University  
Oxford, OH 45056, USA  
e-mail : [dahlmac@muohio.edu](mailto:dahlmac@muohio.edu)

**Steering Committee /  
Comité de Direction:**

**Prof. Elena DELL'AGNESE**

Department of Sociology and Social Research  
University of Milano-Bicocca  
Via Bicocca degli Arcimboldi 8  
20126 Milan, Italy  
e-mail : [elena.dellagnese@unimib.it](mailto:elena.dellagnese@unimib.it)

**Prof. Alexander MURPHY**

Department of Geography  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1251, USA  
e-mail : [abmurphy@uoregon.edu](mailto:abmurphy@uoregon.edu)

**Prof. Paul REUBER**

Institute of Geography  
University of Münster  
Robert Koch Strasse 26  
48149 Münster, Germany  
e-mail : [p.reuber@uni-muenster.de](mailto:p.reuber@uni-muenster.de)

**Prof. Marek SOBCZYNSKI**

Department of Political Geography  
University of Lodz  
Collegium Geographicum  
ul. Kopcynskiego 31  
90-142 Lodz, Poland  
e-mail : [marsob@geo.uni.lodz.pl](mailto:marsob@geo.uni.lodz.pl)

## I – Chairman’s Column

Dear Commission Members, Friends and Colleagues;

In the summer 2012 we should make efforts to participate at the 32. International Geographical Conference DOWN TO EARTH, Cologne (Koeln), Germany, August 26 - 30, 2012. The venue of the conference is the University of Cologne Albertus-Magnus-Platz, 50923 Cologne. At the IGU's main conference site in Cologne the Commission on Political Geography is organizing seven sessions (28 papers). The paper presentations will take place in the lecture room “Com 2” of the university, starting Monday, August 27 (5 sessions) and Tuesday (2 sessions + Business Meeting) at 8:00 o’clock. In addition, political geography and critical geopolitics will jointly discuss SPATIALISING THE (GEO)POLITICAL at the pre-conference in Frankfurt/Main, Germany on Friday, August 24 and Saturday, 25, 2012. There, at the Goethe University – Casino Campus Westend, Grueneburgweg 1, 60323 Frankfurt, 10 sessions of papers are planned. The two morning sessions will include key-note speakers *David Newman*, *Alec Murphy* and *Joanne Sharp*. I would like to thank Professor *Paul Reuber*, a CPG Steering Committee member, for co-operating with the IGC staff and making it possible that an outstanding number and a verity of interesting papers are going to be presented in Cologne. I also would like to thank Dr. *Veith Bachman* for taking the initiative to bring political geography and critical geopolitics together; his efforts on the national and international level have produced a program of highly motivating and future oriented topics. Details on the CPG IGU program at the IGC Cologne can be found at [https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page\\_id=592](https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=592), the outline of the political/critical geography program in Frankfurt/Main is available at <http://www.geo.uni-frankfurt.de/ifh/pg-cg-precon/Programm-23-July.pdf>.

In Cologne the International Geographical Union’s GENERAL ASSEMBLY is going to take place. The General Assembly’s discussion topics are to be placed into four sessions, each starting at 14:00 o’clock, beginning on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August in venue “Com 1”. Sessions are not open to the general public, as the attendance is limited to the chairs of commissions and nation-states’/national committee’s representatives only. They are electors deciding on the policy and the officers of the IGU for the next mandate (2012 – 2016). It is anticipated that elections for vacant positions on the Executive Committee will be held towards the end of the second session, on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August. The International Geographical Union’s General Assembly AGENDA will include the following discussion points: 1. Welcome by the President, 2. Roll Call, 3. Adoption of the Agenda, 4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 IGU General Assembly in Tunis, 5. Discussion of IGU Priorities and National Committee suggestions, 6. Appointment of Tellers, 7. Approval of Commissions, Task Forces, Chairs, and Steering Committees, 8. Approval of new National Members, 9. Report of the President on the Period 2008-2012, 10. Report of the Secretary General and Treasurer on the Period 2008-2012, 11. Appointment of the General Assembly Finance Committee, 12. Election of 2012-2016 IGU President and Executive Committee members, 13. Report and feedback on Cologne IGU Congress, 14. Approval of the Locations of the 2018 Regional Conference and 2020 International Geographical Congress, 15. Announcement of IGU Honors and Awards, 16. Forthcoming Meetings: 2013 Regional Conference Kyoto, Japan; 2014 Regional Conference

Krakow, Poland; 2015 Regional Conference Moscow, Russia; 2016 International Geographical Congress, Beijing, China; 17. Comments by the President Elect, 18. Report of the General Assembly Finance Committee, 19. Other Business, 20. Votes of Thanks, 21. Adjourn.

The unofficial and unconfirmed information related to IGU's General Assembly discussion #12 (Election of 2012-2016 IGU President and Executive Committee members) is:

A. our colleague, Chair of the Commission on Political Geography 1998 – 2006, Prof. *Vladimir Kolossov* (Moscow, Russia) is (the only) candidate for the President of the IGU 2012 – 2016.

B. 10 candidates are looking for support to be elected into 4 vacant 2012 – 2016 Vice-President positions: 1. *David Chang-yi* (Chair of the IGU Commission on Islands, China-Taipei); 2. *Dietrich Soyez* (Co-Chair of the IGU IGC Cologne 2012, Koeln, Germany); 3. *Joos Droogleever Fortuijn* (Chair of the Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2000 – 2004 Chair of the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography); 4. *Muhammad S. Makki* (Chair of the Department of Geography, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia); 5. *Mark W. Rosenberg* (Chair of the IGU's Commission on Health and the Environment, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada); 6. *Kayode Oysiku* (Department of Geography and Regional Planning, Nigeria); 7. *R.B. Singh* (Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India); 8. *Jarkko Saarinen* (Chair of the IGU Commission on Geography of Tourism; University of Oulu, Finland); 9. *Yves Boque* (Université de Bourgogne, Dijon, France); 10. *Anton Gosar* (Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography, Dean, University of Primorska, Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia).

The IGU Commission on Political Geography will have its BUSINESS MEETING on Tuesday, August 28 at 14:00 in the lecture room "Com 2". The Business Meeting AGENDA proposal is: 1. Welcome by the Chair, 2. Adoption of the Agenda, 3. Report of the IGU CPG Chair on the Period 2008-2012, 4. Election of 2012-2016 IGU CPG Chair, 5. Proposals for the Steering Committee Membership, 6. Forthcoming Meetings: 2013 Regional Conference Kyoto, Japan; 2014 Regional Conference Krakow, Poland; other IGU CPG sponsored conferences, 7. Comments by the IGU CPG Chair Elect, 8. Other Business, 9. Votes of Thanks, 10. Adjourn.

IGU CPG Steering Committee Members and National Committees have unofficially made proposals (Call in Newsletter #12) for the 2012 – 2016 Chair and Steering Committee members. The acting Chair has contacted proposed candidates and received the approval for the candidacy for the 2012 - 2016 IGU CPG Chair (only) from *Elena dell'Agnese* (Milano, Italy), an acting Steering Committee member. No proposals for the Vice-President and two mandates acting CPG Secretary (*David Newman*, Beer Sheva, Israel) and CPG Webmaster (*Carl Dahlman*, Oxford, OH., USA) were submitted. For the two mandates acting members of the IGU Steering Committee the following replacements have been suggested: *Shinya Kitagawa* (for *Takashi Yamazaki*), *Marc Ropivia* (for *Maano Ramundsindela*), *Norbert Pap*

(for *Alexandru Ilies*) and *Jan Wendt* (for *Marek Sobczynski*). At the Santiago IGU Regional Meeting the need for a representative of the region of South America was expressed and *Ina Elias De Castro* (Brasil) was suggested. No suggestions for the replacement of the two mandate serving Steering Committee members *Paul Reuber* and *Sanjay Chaturvedi* have been received. *Alexander Murphy* and *Stephane Rossiere* remain Steering Committee members as their incorporation into the IGU CPG Steering Committee membership took place in 2010. The Chair elect can act by naming new, replace suggested and incorporate existing Steering Committee members into team.

The acting IGU CPG Chair and Editor of the past 7 Newsletters will be leading the discussion of the CPG IGU Business Meeting for the last time. Looking forward to a fruitful discussion at this meeting and to the support of the IGU Vice-President candidacy of mine (*Anton Gosar*) by (your) national committee representatives in the room next door!

Anton Gosar, Editor

## II - Upcoming Conferences and Related Events

- 1. International Geographic Conference DOWN TO EARTH  
Cologne , 26. – 30. 8. 2012**  
See Editorial and [https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page\\_id=592](https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=592)
- 2. Commission on Political Geography Pre-Conference: SPATIALISING THE (GEO)POLITICAL  
Frankfurt/Main, 24. – 25. 8. 2012**  
See Editorial and <http://www.geo.uni-frankfurt.de/ifh/pg-cg-precon/Programm-23-July.pdf>.
- 3. Commission on Political Geography Sponsored Conference THE EASTERN DIMENSION OF THE UNITED EUROPE,  
Chelm, Poland // Lutsk, Ukraine, 12 – 14. 09. 2012**  
See Newsletter #14
- 4. Commission on Political Geography Sponsored Conference BRIT XII – BORDER REGIONS IN TRANSITION: BORDERLAND VOICES – SHAPING A NEW WORLD ORDER.  
Fukuoka, Japan // Pusan, Korea, 13. – 16. 11. 2012**  
See IGU CPG Newsletter #14 and <http://www.borderstudies.jp/brit2012/top.html>
- 5. Commission on Political Geography Sponsored Conference ADRIATIC FORUM V : GEOPOLITICS TOWARDS FUTURE  
Università degli Studi "Niccolò Cusano"- Telematica,  
Rome, 21. – 23. 6. 2013**
- 6. Commission on Political Geography Conference: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE ENVIRONMENT.  
Eugene (University of Oregon), Oregon, U.S.A.: June 2013**  
See Newsletter #14
- 7. IGU Regional Conference: TRADITIONAL WISDOM AND MODERN KNOWLEDGE FOR THE EARTH'S FUTURE  
Kyoto, Japan, 4. – 9. 8. 2013**  
The main theme of the KRC is "Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future." Remarkable recent economic growth in Asia and other regions in the world is a product of modern knowledge. However, this has increased the burden on

the global environment, and the deepening of environmental problems strongly suggests that it is time to reexamine such modern knowledge. This reexamination will be promoted by turning to traditional wisdom which tends to be downplayed. The theme was chosen for these reasons.

The KRC will be held at the Kyoto International Conference Center. Kyoto is now internationally well-known for the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change that was initiated in December 1997. It is at this Center that the Kyoto Protocol was adopted. With regards to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from developed countries, the Kyoto Protocol sets legally binding, numerical targets for each country and has received more attention than any other environmental policy framework in the contemporary world. We earnestly hope that all the participants will take the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol into account and take part in active discussions for mitigation and solution of various global environmental problems.

As the KRC approaches, we will ask a Japanese member in your Commission to act as an important liaison to connect your Commission to the KRC Organizing Committee. This is an indispensable element of the success of the KRC. Contact: [haruyama@bio.mie-u.ac.jp](mailto:haruyama@bio.mie-u.ac.jp).

### III – Past Events

#### 1. FY+20: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

**Miami University, Oxford Ohio : 15 - 17 March 2012.**

**Report by *Carl Dahlman***

The conference was a two-day multidisciplinary conference promoting the work of young scholars whose work examines new and continuing themes arising from the break-up of Yugoslavia, especially the post-Yugoslav scene and its current prospects. The conference funded travel for 12 young scholars in the fields of Anthropology, Art and Visual Studies, Geography, Languages and Literatures, Religion, International Studies, and Rhetoric. The sessions were organized according to the following themes:

- Media, Aesthetics, and Politics: Authors examined the construction of post-socialist aesthetics; political propaganda, and; election campaigns.
- Nostalgia and Memory: Authors presented papers on contemporary nostalgia for Yugoslavia; the language of memory, and; memorials and remembrance.
- Religion After Yugoslavia: Authors discussed the forms of inter-religious dialogue; the role of religion in the public life of Macedonia, and; the role of the Serbian Orthodox Church today.
- Reworking Identities: Authors examined public protests in Skopje; the ethnic political economy of Bosnia, and; ethnographies of syncretic religious practices in Bosnia.
- Poetic Interventions: Conference participants engaged in the reading and analysis of a poem opening onto themes linking back to those running through the conference.

In addition to the work of the young researchers, three U.S.-based distinguished scholars gave keynote addresses, as follows:

- Robert Hayden, Professor of Anthropology, Law and Public & International Affairs and Director, Center for Russian & East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh, “From EUphoria to EUgoslavia.”
- John Agnew, Department of Geography, U.C.L.A. “Balkan Borders: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.”
- Robert Donia, History, University of Michigan, “We are All Bosnians: The Yugoslav Wars as Universal Human Dilemma.”

The recurring themes of the conference stressed how the conflicts that divided and fragmented Yugoslavia have transformed and been transformed by the events of the last 20 years. There persists exclusionary nationalist politics in the countries of the former Yugoslavia, driven by corruption and disruption. At the same time, there have emerged deliberate efforts among citizens and alternative political actors to change the public discourse in the countries that were once part of Yugoslavia.

The organizer of the conference was *Prof. Carl Dahlman* and colleagues in Comparative Religion and Anthropology. Support was provided from the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies and Miami University.

**2. Commission on Political Geography Conference: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE ENVIRONMENT: BORDERSCAPES III  
Trieste, 28 - 30 June 2012**

At the beginning of this new century, together with the disappearance of various end-ist chimeras predicting “the end of history” or “the end of distance”, also the vision of a “borderless world” has faded away. Indeed, international boundaries now mark the world political map with scars of division that are deeper than ever, while new forms of “political frontier” (Prescott, 1987) have resurfaced around the “rich spaces of the world”, - shaping landscapes of separation and control and re-igniting struggles over territory and sovereignty.

At the global scale, geopolitical buffer zones have been created in order to prevent contact between the places where people would like to go, and the places from which they are escaping (the effect for instance of the bilateral agreements on migration control signed by Libya with the Italian government). At the local scale, borders of fragmentation have multiplied and have been physically enforced, demarcating separation or interaction between trans-border realities and spaces. All the same, together with separation, borders can also be spaces of opportunity. Alongside borders offering a stark contrast of cultural and social difference, such as the US-Mexico one, transnational urban systems and maquiladoras bloom - as a result of complementarity, mixing legal and illegal activities along the dividing line. But also within ‘EU’-rope, where boundaries and institutional barriers are supposed to be progressively disappearing, even urban borderscapes are still evident, not only as relicts of the past, as symbolic places that work as markers for cultural identities, but also as features of contemporary political and juridical spaces, with numerous local economies that actually thrive on difference. For all these many reasons, borders are politically charged landscapes, where questions pertaining to national security and confrontation, cultural hybridisation, asymmetric fluxes of people and goods, are objects of countless – often

contradictory - cultural representations. They may be gendered landscapes as well, where masculine and feminine stereotypes are depicted against backdrops of colonial fantasies, as in the case of the US-Mexico border; but also places where gender differences can act as a selective factor in mobility, for instance in the daily journey of Moroccan cleaners who live in the town of Tétuan and work in the Spanish enclave of Melilla. The third edition of the international conference on Borderscapes was tackling all these general issues, but have focused on border towns and divided cities. For this reason, the conference was held in the city of Trieste, straddling the long contested boundary between Italy and the former Yugoslavia (now Republic of Slovenia). As part of the conference specific topic, a field trip to the border of the dual-town(s) of Gorizia and Nova Gorica was organized. A post-conference excursion was organized from Trieste to Sarajevo (and back), July 1 - 5.

*Elena dell’Agnese and Sergio Zilli, Co-Chairs of the conference, on the conference:*

From the 27th and the 30th of June 2012, the third edition of the International seminar Borderscapes was held in Trieste, under the scientific direction of *Elena dell’Agnese* and *Sergio Zilli*. The seminar was attended by more than one hundred scholars, mainly political geographers but also people with a multidisciplinary background and a shared interest in border landscapes. Indeed, this perspective has been the focal point of the different sessions of the seminar, articulated both around the general idea of borders as a relevant factor in local territorial transformations, and of borders as an object of popular culture and artistic representations. While the first edition of the Seminar, held in Trento 2006, had as a special interest in the myth of the “natural boundaries”, and the second one, held in Trapani 2009, had maritime boundaries as its main centre of attention, the third edition, given the place of the venue, had a special focus on divided cities. For this reason, an intra-conference excursion to the cities of Gorizia and Nova Gorica was organised. Given the attention reserved to the general concept of landscape, a large amount of the discussion in Borderscapes 3 was specially focused on visual aspects and analysis. For this reason, jointly with the conference, was organised a cartographic exhibition, open not only to the conference participants but also to the citizens of Trieste (the exhibition was arranged by *Orietta Selva*, *Dragan Umek* and *Sergio Zilli*). A post conference excursion to the “divided cities” of Sarajevo and Mostar, organised by *Anton Gosar* and *Elena dell’Agnese*, and led by *Mladen Klemenčić* and *Tanja Sekulić*, helped a big group of participants to taste, on field, the “borderscape” experience.

*David Newman* on the Borderscape Experience (Jerusalem Post, Wednesday, August 1, 2012/5772). *The writer is dean of the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Ben-Gurion University and editor of the international journal Geopolitics. The views expressed are his alone.*

The Borderscapes III conference, which took place in Trieste, Italy was attended by border scholars and political geographers from throughout the world, including Israel. The three-day, intensive conference, arranged by Prof. Elena dell’Agnese of the University of Milan and

a member of the Political Geography Commission of the International Geographic Union, was followed by a four-day field trip to Croatia and Bosnia. Expertly guided by Croatian professor Mladen Klemencic, the trip, focusing on the ethno-territorial conflicts in this region, which just twenty years ago resulted in mass killings, ethnic cleansing and brutality to an extent Europe had not witnessed since the Second World War. When they meet, border scholars must almost always undergo a series of border crossings – it is part of the anthropological experience which repeats itself at conferences and seminars of this type. Last week, as the group travelled from Northern Italy to Slovenia, Croatia and ultimately to Bosnia-Herzegovina, they went through three sets of borders in one day. But the experience at each border is completely different. Driving from Italy to Slovenia, as in most other countries in Western Europe today, one hardly even notices crossing a border, with the unmanned border installations recognizable for what they were, rather than what they are. From Slovenia into Croatia takes slightly longer, 15 minutes or so, as all passengers are expected to show their passports, as if only to demonstrate that these are different countries. There were no questions or suspicions raised. And finally, crossing from Croatia into Bosnia takes slightly longer, as the non-EU country still makes a show of examining the passports and delaying the passage of the bus in order to make some sort of statement concerning the right of entry into its sovereign territory. A lot of it is pure theater. Not least the half-hour delay at the Bosnian border, just one hour before the final game of the EURO 2012 competition is due to take place, with most of the conference participants, especially those from Italy and Spain, desiring to arrive in time for the beginning of the game. Suddenly, borders become significant barriers again. Perhaps the border police on duty this evening are simply disgruntled at having to work, rather than being at home themselves to see the game.

In Israel we can only be jealous of the relatively peaceful relations which exist between most European countries today. Even in the bitterly contested Balkan countries, one is struck by the economic rejuvenation which has already taken place in such places as Sarajevo and Mostar, even if the scars and memories of what happened just 15 - 20 years ago are unlikely ever to be forgotten, or forgiven, by those whose families and friends were killed, driven out and effectively disinherited. Accession to the EU was dependent on the full right of return of those who had fled or been driven out. But while some did return, many chose not to take up this option, either out of fear of becoming an ethnic religious minority again, or because they have started new lives elsewhere and do not wish to be reminded of the events of the past. Ironically, war tourism has become a big money earner in this area. Thousands of visitors come to stare and take pictures of those houses which have not yet been reconstructed, the bullet holes which remain in the walls of many existing buildings, or the famous – but reconstructed – old bridge in the town of Mostar in Herzegovina – perhaps the single most recognized symbol of war period during the 1990s. In Israel too, the conflict – past and present – has become a well-oiled part of the tourism itinerary. Sites of past battles, the security barrier around Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the fortified borders with Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, have all become part of the popular tourism itinerary. It may be



ghoulish, but all these countries recognize a money-spinner for what it is. Perhaps the biggest theater of this kind in the world today are the heavily fortified border zones between North and South Korea, and India and Pakistan near Amritsar, where visitors are taken on official tours. In Bosnia, the large and impressive Jewish cemetery in Sarajevo, located high above the city, was used by Serbian snipers, resulting in much return fire and the destruction of many gravestones, some of which have now been restored. The site of the last remaining synagogue in Mostar, destroyed in the war, remains untended and desolate, as the 4,000-strong Jewish community of the town left, never to return. But the Jewish heritage is there for all to see, with Sarajevo in particular having served as a center for Ladino-speaking Sephardi communities in Europe for centuries, ever since their arrival from the Iberian Peninsula in the wake of their expulsion by Spain and Portugal at the end of the 15th century.

Borderscapes is about the way border landscapes and regions are transformed through political and social events. Europe has undergone major spatial transformations, first through vicious and ferocious wars, resulting in death, mass suffering and ethnic cleansing. This has been followed by periods of reconciliation, the opening – and ultimately total removal – of borders, and an understanding that, whatever the ideological, national or religious differences and mistrusts and animosities, the world is simply a better place and works better when national stereotypes and exclusive narratives are put to one side. Not because groups no longer believe in their exclusive narratives and histories, which don't have room for other national groups other than as ethnic minorities, but because the desire for exclusive control and sovereignty in multi-ethnic regions only results in suffering and destruction all round. No one is a winner, all are losers. In Israel, we cannot but envy the fact that the warring Europeans have found the way to avoid further conflict, and to turn the ravages of warfare into a way of working together. It happened between France and Germany after World War II, and it seems to be happening, even reluctantly, in parts of the Balkans today – as all desire to become full members of the EU.

Perhaps it is something worth thinking about in our neck of the woods. Warfare and destruction have not achieved anything. The growth of religious fundamentalism has only served to strengthen and fuel the narratives of exclusion and national hegemony. Occupation and the expansion of the settlement infrastructure has not served to strengthen Israel's control of the region, while suicide terrorism and Katyusha rockets across the border have not served to weaken Israel's sovereignty in its own territory or to further the cause of Palestinian independence. On the contrary, it has only served to create new walls and fences of separation and push the cause of peace even further away from this region. We should be creating our own borderscapes, destroying walls and fences instead of constructing them, increasing the social and economic quality of life of both Israelis and Palestinians, and seeking new ways of reaching out to each other across the divide which, in contrast to the borders in Europe, are becoming even more difficult to cross as each day goes by.

*Mladen Klemenčić*, Croatian political geographer (Zagreb) and guide on the Borderscape III Field Trip: Trieste (Italy) – Ljubljana (Slovenia) – Zagreb (Croatia) – Plitvice Lakes – Bihač (Bosnia and Herzegovina) – Jajce – Travnik – Sarajevo – Mostar – Biograd (Croatia) – Trieste (Italy):

The five-day excursion crisscrossing Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina was organized as a post-conference fieldtrip of the Borderscapes III international conference. Altogether 35 participants from various countries participated, including most prominent contemporary political geographers and young researchers. The excursion was realized as a true international collaborative effort: the itinerary was joint Italo-Slovene production (*Elena dell'Agnese* and *Anton Gosar*), the tour-operator was an agency based in Slovenia, but both - the agency director and bus driver - were in fact born in Bosnia-Herzegovina, while I, a Croatian political geographer, was the guide on this field trip. I was honored and pleased to provide expertly guidance and comments during the journey.

Itinerary focused on major roads and main towns, which was particularly convenient for those who visited the area for the first time. We drove from Trieste diagonally through Slovenia along the motorway, with the stop and sight-seeing in the country's capital Ljubljana. In Croatia, we made just a coach tour through the capital and my hometown Zagreb, saving time for the visit to the Plitvice Lakes, major national park of the country. There, we walked along the Lower lakes and saw the main waterfall. However, most of the time was spent in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We visited the important historical centers from the pre-Ottoman period (Bihač, Ključ), the temporary seat of the country in Ottoman times - Travnik, as well as internationally two best known towns, Mostar and Sarajevo. On the route we saw where Tito's Yugoslavia was proclaimed (Jajce), stopped at the battlefield from the WW II (Jablanica) and visited the first-class archeological museum at the Franciscan monastery at Ljubuški, in Herzegovina. The longest stop was made in Sarajevo, where the tour participants got to know about topography of the town, its architectural composition which comprises of Oriental, Austro-Hungarian and post-WW II (socialistic) parts, and rich cultural inheritance of the four ethno-religious groups (Muslim, Croat, Serb and Jewish). We saw sites where the WW I was triggered and where the first victims of 1992 fell.

The tour was organized as a part of the meeting of the border scholars who always like to cross borders. Consequently, I focused my guidance on different boundaries on the route, international and internal, geographical and historical, visible and non-visible, with control and without it. We started the tour crossing the former Iron Curtain (Italy-Yugoslavia boundary), close to Trieste, continued by crossing the new international boundaries between three ex-Yugoslavia successor states, and ended by crossing internal division line within Bosnia-Herzegovina (the IEBL - Inter-Entity Boundary Line), as well as the border between two country's formative geographical and historical regions = Bosnia and

Herzegovina. We also drove through areas populated by different ethnic communities, usually clearly marked with respective national symbols (flags and graphities), cemeteries as well as newly built or renovated religious objects.

In many ways it was also a journey through history of the the part of Europe which only in the 20th century was in part politically integrated (by Austria-Hungary and Yugoslavia), as well as disintegrated (following both World Wars and after the break-up of Yugoslavia). We witnessed many traces of the recent 1991 – 1996 war, particularly in Mostar and Sarajevo, and heard stories of various Bosnian communities which used to live side by side for centuries, but also made life difficult each other in times of conflicts.

In my comments during the journey I focused mainly on history and my own life's experiences from the early one-day shopping tours to Trieste, everyday life under the one-party communist rule, transition to democracy and turbulent times after which the former federal republics gained independence. I also tried to point out differences between Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which may not be visible to a foreigner. While visiting different sites or driving along them I pointed out their specific symbolic significance for insiders. Being a guide was a new and challenging experience for me. The group I guided consisted of experts, and not of ordinary tourists, and I tried to respect that. Almost all of them were outsiders to the region, and for the most of them it was the first visit ever. As I understood it, my role was to provide an insider's view of sites and events. According to the post-excursion reactions, it seems that we have managed to establish high degree of mutual understanding. It was by no means easy to keep control over often tight time-schedule, but I was fully supported by all, and we managed to fulfill planned itinerary. During the entire journey temperatures were high above the averages, but in the five days I did not hear a single person's complaint – perhaps that detail illustrates enthusiasm of all participants as well as friendly atmosphere created within our group.

Later, after returning to Croatia, we drove along the superb Croatian highway A1 through karstic Dalmatian landscape, spent the night in the coastal town of Biograd and even managed to enjoy swimming at pleasantly warm Adriatic Sea around midnight

### **3. IPSA WORLD CONGRESS, Madrid, Spain, July 8-12, 2012**

Report by *Takashi Yamazaki*, IGU CPG Steering Committee Member  
([yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp](mailto:yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp))

A great number of scholars participated in the 2012 IPSA World Congress of Political Science in Madrid, Spain. The Research Committee on Political and Cultural Geography (RC 15) of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) organized the following eight panels at the Congress:

- Panel 1: Across the Border: Cultural Geography of Border Crossing Experiences, Practices and Policies (convened by Heriberto Cairo) 3 papers.
- Panel 2: Across the Border: Political Geography of Border Crossing Experiences, Practices and Policies II (Heriberto Cairo) 4 papers.
- Panel 3: Boundary Conditions in a Complex World (Jonathon Louth) 3 papers.
- Panel 4: Indian Ocean Geopolitics in 21st Century: Rethinking Space, Scale and Security (Takashi Yamazaki) 4 papers.
- Panel 5: Latin American Geopolitics and Transnational Politics: Dynamics of Integration and Fragmentation (Gisela da Silva Guevara) 2 papers.
- Panel 6: Latin American Geopolitics and Transnational Politics: Strategy, Regional Development and Security (Gisela da Silva Guevara) 4 papers.
- Panel 7: Rethinking Urban Politics for the Early Twenty-First Century (Gordon MacLeod) 3 papers.
- Panel 8: The Geography, Politics and Economics of Projected Global Resource Scarcity (Joint panel with RC41 on Geopolitics) (Aharon Klieman) 3 papers.

Twenty-six excellent papers altogether were presented from all around the world. All the panels were well-attended. This year RC 15 co-chairs Sanjay Chaturvedi and Takashi Yamazaki will complete their six-year term, and new co-chairs will be elected. The next IPSA World Congress will be held in Montreal 2014 (followed by Istanbul in 2016). For more information about activities of the IPSA, please look at: <http://www.ipsa.org>.

#### **IV. Member's Projects, Publishing, Travels, Other ...**

##### **1.POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY IN HUNGARY**

Report by *Norbert Pap*, Chair of the Political Geography Subcommittee of the HAS - Hungarian Academy of Sciences .

The Political Geography Subcommittee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) for the mandate 2012 – 2015 is re-established: 29 members of the Human Geography Committee of HAS joined to the newly formed organization. *Norbert Pap* (University of Pécs) was elected Chair and *László Gulyas* (University Of Szeged) was elected Secretary General of the subcommittee. Almost all of the Hungarian universities and the Geographical Research Institute of HAS are represented in it.

Planned conferences related to political geography: 1. Regions in the Carpathian Basin and Beyond: Contemporary Hungarians Presence in the Carpathian Basin. Kaposvar, 22. 10. 2012; 2.) The Hungarian Conference on Political Geography: Minorities – Minority Policies – Geopolitics. Pecs, 14 – 15. 11. 2012; 3. Regional Historical Studies: Croatia and Rijeka/Fiume, Szeged, 15. 12. 2012; 4. Rise and Fall of Multiethnic States: The Osman Empire/Turkey. March 1, 2013.

Members of the Political Geography Sub-Comitee of HAS: Dr. Bali Lóránt, Keszthely; Dr. Békési László, Budapest; Dr. Bernek Ágnes, Budapest; Dr. Boros Lajos, Szeged; Dr. Csüllög Gábor, Budapest; Dr. Czimre Klára, Debrecen; Dr. Dávid Lóránt, Gyöngyös; Dr. Dobány Zoltán, Nyíregyháza; Dr. Gálosi-Kovács Bernadett, Pécs; Dr. Gulyás László, Szeged (Secr-Gen.); Dr. Hegedűs Gábor, Szeged; Dr. Izsák Éva Budapest; Colonel Dr. Kobilka István, Budapest-Pécs; Kocsis Károly, Member of HAS, Budapest-Miskolc; Dr. Kókai Sándor, Nyíregyháza; Dr. Kovács Zoltán, Budapest-Szeged; Dr. M. Császár Zsuzsa, Pécs; Colonel Dr. Nagy Miklós Mihály, Budapest; Dr. Pál Viktor, Szeged; Dr. Pap Norbert PhD Pécs (Chair); Dr. Pete József, Pécs; Dr. L. Rédei Mária, Szombathely – Budapest; Dr. Reményi Péter, Pécs; Colonel Dr. Siposné Kecskeméthy Klára, Budapest; Dr. Süli-Zakar István, Debrecen; Dr. Tátrai Patrik, Budapest; Dr. Tóth Antal, Eger; Dr. Végh Andor, Pécs; Dr. Wilhelm Zoltán, Pécs.

---

The Newsletter #15 has been edited by Dr. Anton Gosar, Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography ([anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si](mailto:anton.gosar@fhs.upr.si)), with assistance of Dr. Carl T. Dahlman ([dahlmac@muohio.edu](mailto:dahlmac@muohio.edu)), the Webmaster of the IGU Commission on Political Geography. Publishing: August 1, 2012