A New Commission for 2016-2020

Maybe not a surprise considering the numerous activities during the last years, the Commission for the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change has been approved for a new 4-year term by the IGU General Assembly during the International Geographical Congress in Beijing. The decision enables a further effort to develop tourism geographies and enhance global comparative research.

Since many of the members of the previous commission had served for 8 years, they had to resign in accordance with the IGU-regulations. Hence the new commission includes several new members that were chosen with respect to equal numbers of men and women, geographical representation, and language. As a result, the commission is composed in the following way:

- Dieter K. Müller (chair)
  Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University, Sweden

- Tim Coles
  University of Exeter Business School, UK

- Julie Wilson
  Faculty of Economics and Business Studies, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain

- Maria Gravari-Barbas
  Institut de Recherche et d'Études Supérieures du Tourisme, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, France

- Marek Więckowski
  Polish Academy of Sciences
  Poland

- Velvet Nelson
  Department of Geography and Geology, Sam Huston State University, USA

- Rita de Cássia Ariza da Cruz
  Department of Geography, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

- Gustav Visser
  Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

- Xu Honggang
  School of Tourism and Management, Sun Yat-Sen University, China

- Theano Terkenli
  Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, Greece

- Joseph M. Cheer
  Australia & International Tourism Research Unit, Monash University, Australia

New honorary members of the commission

During the commission business meeting in Beijing it was decided that the commission further should appoint past members as honorary members of the commission. Hence, the commission is completed by the following honorary members:

- Alan A. Lew, Department of Geography, Planning & Recreation, Northern Arizona University, USA
- Carolin Funck, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Hiroshima University, Japan
Another honorary member is previous commission chair Jarkko Saarinen, University of Oulu, Finland, who stepped down from being vice-president of the IGU.

The appointment of honorary members should be seen as a measure to increase the organization’s continuity, but also as an expression of gratitude for the input that the honorary commission members had on the activities of the organization.

Hence, on behalf of the commission, a great thank you to our new honorable members.

Conference report

International Geographical Union Pre-Congress Symposium
Geography and Planning: Creating a New Tourism Landscape
15-18 August 2016, Nanjing and Suzhou, China

IGU Pre-Congress Symposium entitled “Geography and Planning: Creating a New Tourism Landscape” was held in Nanjing and Suzhou of China on 15-18 August 2016 organized by the IGU Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change, the Geographical Society of China Commission on Tourism Geography, the Institution for Tourism Research, School of Geographic and Oceanographic Sciences of Nanjing University, Northern Arizona University, USA and University Technology MARA, Malaysia.

The theme of the symposium was “Geography and Planning: Creating a New Tourism Landscape” with 9 subtopics: The tourism landscape as a storytelling, Challenges and best practices of tourism planning, Sustainable tourism policy and planning, Governance in urban tourism destinations, Theme park: the landscape of dreamlands and imagined worlds, Globalization, culture landscape and tourism, Big data and geographical analytics in tourism geography, Methodological issues in tourism geography and planning, and Future trends in tourism geography and planning.

The symposium participant number reached 92 with 28 foreign scholars, among which 8 participants were from Malaysia, 7 from Japan, 4 from USA, 3 from Poland, 3 from Russia, 1 from Brazil, 1 from New Zealand and 1 from Thailand.

The symposium opening ceremony was held in the Porcelain Tower Porcelain Tower Monument Park in Nanjing and hosted by Professor Jie Zhang and Professor Jinhe Zhang of Nanjing University. The keynote speeches were given by Professor Alan A. Lew of Northern Arizona University, USA, the vice-president of Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change Geographical of International Geographical Union, Professor Carolin Funck of Hiroshima University, Japan, Professor Honggang Xu of Sun Yat-sen University, China, Professor Guoqing Du of Rikkyo University, Japan, and Associate Professor Nor’ain Othman of University Technology Mara, Malaysia. The symposium received 65 abstracts/full
papers and 43 oral presentations. Both the keynote speeches and session presentations are successfully.

The commission would like to express its gratitude to our local organizers and friends for facilitating such a great event in China.

**IGC Beijing - Shaping Our Harmonious Worlds**

Tourism geographies were also a major contribution during the IGC in Beijing. The massive number of delegates in Beijing implied a new record for the IGU; 262 sessions were organized during the congress; 156 of these had been proposed by 41 IGU Commissions; 2600 presentations were made. In parallel to the oral sessions, 1200 posters were presented.

The tourism commission was responsible for 16 sessions and thus, the most active commission during the event. Moreover, it can be noted that sessions were well attended and the quality of presentations was persistently very good. Not least many young Asian Ph.D. students presented excellent work in a very convincing manner.

**IGU News**

During the IGC in Beijing the general assembly of the IGU met and appointed a new leadership. Many familiar names discontinued their engagement for various reasons and hence, the commission lost its previous vice-president Jarkko Saarinen, but also a great supporter of the commission, 1st vice president Dieter Soyez, University of Cologne, resigned from his appointment. As a result of an election held at the Beijing General Assembly, Professor Yukio Himiyama, Hokkaido University of Education, was unanimously elected as IGU President for the period 2016 to 2020. More information on the IGU business and the new members of the IGU leadership can be found on the IGU-web page.

Among the new vice-presidents Prof Rémy Tremblay, TÉLUQ, Université du Québec, has been appointed for maintaining the liaison to the commission. The commission sees forward to cooperate with Rémy not least considering the 2018 IGU event in Quebec City.

**Upcoming meetings**

**Geographies for Peace – IGU Thematic Conference, La Paz, Bolivia, 23-25 April 2017**

The IGU Commission is happy to be able to be represented at the first IGU Thematic Conference on the topic of geographies for peace to be held in La Paz, Bolivia. The Commission is co-sponsoring two sessions;

- **International Tourism and Cultural Diplomacy**, organized by Fabio Carbone (Coventry University) and Gian Luigi Corinto (University of Macerata)
- **Mobilities and Geographies of Peace**, organized by Edward Jackiewicz (California State University, Northridge)

More information about the conference and how to register can be found on the IGU-webpage. The conference will be held in conjunction with the “EGAL, XVI ENCUENTRO DE GEOGRÁFOS DE AMÉRICA LATINA” (EGAL The 16th Meeting of Latin American Geographers), which will take place from 26 to 29 April in the same city.

**AAG Boston, April, 5th – 9th 2017**

Even in 2017 the IGU Commission continues their cooperation with the AAG and their Specialty Group on Recreation, Tourism and Sports currently led by Dr Patrick Brouder (Brock University). In Boston commission members and researchers with interest in the commission will offer sessions on the following topics:
Lifestyle Mobilities and Local Communities (Xu Honggang & Kou Lirong)
Tourism and the Politics of Wilderness Management and Governance (Jarkko Saarinen, Elizabeth Vidon, & C. Michael Hall)
Transnational Cultural and Natural Heritage in Asia: Contours of Boundary-Transgressing Memoryscapes (Rudi Hartmann, & Dietrich Soyez)
Using qualitative methodology in tourism research (Anne-Marie d’Hauteserre)
What tourism development for developing areas/regions/countries (Anne-Marie d’Hauteserre)

For more information, please visit the web page of the AAG-RTS Study Group

The IGU Commission also continues its cooperation with the Nordic Geographers Meetings, this time to be held in Stockholm, June 18th–21st 2017. During this conference the following sessions are organized by commission members:

- Critical geographies of tourism development in the Nordic peripheries (Gunnar Thór Jóhannesson, Edward H. Huijbens, Dieter K. Müller & Jarkko Saarinen)
- The Inequalities of Tourism: The Unequal Distribution of the Costs and Benefits of Tourism and Mobility Capital in the Twenty-Frist Century (C. Michael Hall & Jarkko Saarinen)

For more information on the conference, please visit the NGM-web page.

Other meetings with IGU-Commission involvement

Currently the commission is negotiating a participation at the EUGEO-conference in Brussels, September 4th-6th, 2017 is considered.

Furthermore, the commission will probably co-sponsor an tourism geographies event in Spain, October 2017.

Dates and topics for these conferences will be announced in the next newsletter.

IGU meetings beyond 2017

Currently the IGU-calendar comprises the following events:

- 2018 IGU Regional Conference Quebec, Canada
- 2020 IGU International Geographical Congress Istanbul, Turkey
- 2022 IGU International Geographical Congress (100 year anniversary), Paris, France
- 2024 IGU International Geographical Congress, Dublin, Ireland

As usual, the commission will try to organize committed pre-meetings adjacent to these events. For more and updated information on general IGU events please consider the new webpage of IGU igu-online.org

Tourism Geographies.

The International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission for the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change has recently used the opportunity to organize pre-meetings in connection with regional and global IGU-conferences. In particular the meeting in 2004 in Loch Lomond is continuously mentioned as one of the best tourism conferences ever.

The decision of the IGU to organize its regional conference 2018 in Quebec City together with the Canadian Association of Geographers once again creates an excellent opportunity to organize an outstanding pre-meeting. Against this background the Commission is negotiating with the Canadian Association of Geographers’ Tourism and Recreation Study Group and the American Association of Geographers’ Recreation, Tourism and Sports Specialty Group as well as with the journal Tourism Geographies in order to organize such an event.

The CAG and the AAG have seen very positive on this proposal and hence the following dates have preliminary been set for the conference.

Date: 2018-08-02 to 2018-08-05
(Main conference 2018-08-06 to 2018-08-10)
Location: to be decided, but close to Quebec City

Please note these dates already now!

Information on the IGU Regional Conference in Quebec City can already be accessed on http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/

Looking for submissions

New book series “Geographies of Tourism and Global Change”

As announced earlier, the Commission has been involved in launching a new book series titled “Geographies of Tourism and Global Change” with Springer. A first book Tourism and Transition (Müller & Więckowski) based on the outcomes of the IGU-pre-conference meeting in Poland is underway and is expected to be available in early 2017. A second book on rural tourism is currently being negotiated.

The editors of the book series Jarkko Saarinen (Univeristy of Oulu), Carolin Funck (University of Hisroshima) and Dieter Müller (Umeå University) are now looking for new exciting proposals for the series. Edited and single authored volumes are equally welcomed.

In order to submit a proposal, potential authors should get into contact with a member of the editorial team; dieter.muller@umu.se, jarkko.saarinen@oulu.fi, or funckc@hiroshima-u.ac.jp.

For more news visit also the commission web page www.igutourism.org

Please feel free to disseminate this newsletter to interested colleagues!

For joining the IGU Commission’s email list and for receiving continuous information on the Commission’s activities visit the commission web page:

www.igutourism.org

International Geographical Union –
Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change

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