

International Geographical Union
Commission on Geographical Education
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Newsletter #3, July 2013

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Welcome to Newsletter #3!

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the third IGU-CGE Newsletter of the current, 2012-16, Commission on Geographical Education!

As the first year of the Commission comes to a close, this newsletter takes a brief look back at what we have achieved this year and a look forward as to the exciting opportunities to come. Uppermost in many of our minds will be the coming Kyoto Conference, with the impressive Olympiad: Kyoto will welcome delegations from around the world: some details are enclosed, and our thanks go to everyone who has been working hard to make this event a success. Looking forward to next year we are delighted to announce a Commission Symposium in Lisbon to compliment the main IGU Congress in Krakow. The newsletter also details other future events that we hope will be of interest.

We continue to encourage you to get in touch with us – we are hoping to build the Commission’s network of contacts, so please feel free to pass on this newsletter, or better still encourage your colleagues to join our distribution list.

Clare Brooks, John Lidstone and Joop van der Schee

COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Kyoto 2013

We very much look forward to seeing many of you in Kyoto this August.
Our Japanese colleagues have announced the programme on their website: <http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/>

The programme includes 26 presentations organised by the Commission on Geographical Education which will take place on Tuesday August 6, Wednesday August 7 and Thursday August 8. In addition to these commission sessions there are 16 general sessions focusing on education on Monday August 5 and on Wednesday August 7.

Special fieldtrips.

We are very grateful to our Japanese colleagues Takashi Shimura and Koji Ohnishi who have organised two very exciting fieldtrips for us on Friday August 9 in the afternoon (Nara field trip) and on Saturday August 10 (Kyoto field trip) including school visits and meetings with Japanese teachers. Please have a look at www.igu-cge.org and join us. Koji OHNISHI, IGU Kyoto conference CGE field trip officer, would also like to announce the deadline for registration for the fieldtrips which is **1st August**.

Payment method is cash only, which can be made at the IGU Kyoto conference Japanese Exhibition booth, at the following times: 7th and 8th August 12:30-14:00

Business meeting of our commission.

A business meeting for our commission will be held on Thursday August 8 between 16.00 and 17.00 hours in room 677 . Everybody is welcome to attend this meeting to discuss the Commission's programmes of work. In this business meeting we will also talk about the coming conferences in Krakow and Lisbon in 2014, a forthcoming declaration on research in geographical education, and how we can improve communication and our use of the IGU CGE website. We look forward to seeing you there!

Olympiad

The International Geography Olympiad. Approximately 130 of the world's brightest student geographers will gather in Kyoto from 30 July to 5 August. They will represent their country in the 10th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo). The 33 teams will be accompanied by geography educators from their home countries, who play a vital role in preparing and marking the iGeo tests. The Local Organising Committee, chaired by Prof Shigeko Haruyama and Prof Yoshiyasu Ida, has borne a heavy workload to bring the 2013 iGeo to fruition. They have made all the arrangements in Kyoto, as well as organising excursions as part of the programme. They are also primarily responsible for preparation of the Field Work Test, assisted by an Olympic Task Force Committee. Complementing the formal tests, there will be a poster session where each team will take the Kyoto Conference theme – Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future – and illustrate it with an example from their own country. The iGeo also traditionally includes a cultural function. In Kyoto this will be a mix of learning some of our host's culture (karaoke has been mentioned!) and sharing aspects of their own cultures. More information from www.geoolympiad.org, or Kath Berg, co-chair of the IGU Olympiad Task Force, admin@rgsq.org.au

Special joint session.

There is a special joint session in Kyoto on Thursday 8th August at 17.30-19.00 in room 662: Stimulating young academic geographers to engage in IGU activities is a priority of the IGU Executive Committee. Many young geographers are employed mainly in teaching. They are eager to exchange their expertise and experiences on teaching and to learn new ways of teaching. Joos Droogleever Fortuijn as vice-president of the IGU and Joop van der Schee, co-chair of the Commission on Geographical Education would like to explore ideas and opportunities to strengthen the role of IGU in academic teaching of geography. It is a pleasure to invite you to take part in an informal, open meeting at the Regional Conference in Kyoto. We hope to meet many of you in our session in Kyoto. Meng Wang who is president of the YES-network (Young Earth Scientist) will give a short presentation on the work of YES and the question how to involve successfully young geographers in IGU. Then we will discuss a draft proposal on IGU and Academic Teaching in Geography and set our priorities for the next future. The session is an informal session, open for everybody who is interested in this topic.

Progress on Programmes of Work

The Commission on Geographical Education of the International Geographical Union (CGE-IGU) has been working on seven projects:

1. The publication of a **book on geospatial technologies and geography education**. Geospatial technologies play an important role in geography education and are changing fast. The book is scheduled to be published at the end of 2014. The title will be *Geospatial Technologies and Geography Education in a Changing World*, to be edited by Osvaldo Muniz-Solari, Ali Demirci, Joop van der Schee. The book will comprise 18 chapters organized in five parts. The book will begin with an introduction on the theoretical background, followed by the implementation, evaluation and assessment, and teacher education on geospatial technologies to finalize with trends and recommendations for the future. The chapters will be written by authors who are well recognized in the field of geospatial technologies and geography education through their research and publications.
2. An impressive network of **Regional Contacts** has also been developed. We now have more than 50 Regional Contacts from all around the world. Check out our map <http://www.igu-cge.org/about.htm#commission> to find out the location of your nearest Regional Contact! Since the last newsletter, new regional contacts from Latin America have been added to the IGU-CGE network. Osvaldo Muniz-Solari will invite more scholars to be regional contacts in the near future. Scholars from Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico are expected to be integrated to the network soon. Osvaldo is also developing other ways of increasing interactions through the development of online (chat) meetings to gather information on geography education activities and new propositions from different countries. We expect these to take place in September and November, 2013. We are now looking for more volunteers, particularly in areas which don't have a Regional Contact yet, and we are also exploring ways of developing this impressive network into a productive Virtual Community of Practice. We are particularly keen to get early career researchers involved, and we are looking to feature special events targeted to this group for future conferences. Please contact Daniela Schmeinck, Ali Demirci, Clare Brooks or Michael Solem if you'd like to get involved.
3. **The preparation of a publication containing significant papers on geographical education**. Daniela Schmeinck, Sirpa Tani and Joop van der Schee discussed this project and think that this project should result in a digital list on our IGU CGE website of recommended literature on geography in education. David Lambert has contributed some useful advice about this project. Discussion about the next steps of this project will be continued in Kyoto.
4. **The drafting of an edited book on geography education practice and research**. Michael Solem, Clare Brooks and John Lidstone. Discussions have started around the scale and scope of such a book, and the next steps of this project will be continued in Kyoto.
5. **Creating a Geography Education Doctoral and PhD collection** - Ivy Tan, Eje Kim and John Lidstone. The project team has been meeting online and is currently designing a web-based template to collect information on Geography Education MED, EDD and PhD Theses around the world. The project team is using Google Docs which is a free web-based office suite. Invited users can then key in the relevant data and collaborate in real-time. The data captured can be transferred onto a Spreadsheet. Once, the template has been evaluated, it will be mailed out everyone on the IGU CGE mailing list. The project team will meet up again in Kyoto to confirm the adoption of the Google Doc template and will then trial it with willing colleagues. It is hoped that this format will also be readily linked to the proposed new Commission website to become a useful resource for neophyte and experienced researchers in geographical education internationally.
6. **Support and connect early career researchers in geography education** – Fernando Alexandre, Sirpa Tani and John Lidstone. Discussion about the next steps of this project will be continued in Kyoto.
7. **The International Geography Olympiad** is running very well thanks to KathBerg, Lex Chalmers and many others. More detail is given in the above message.

IGU-CGE Treasurer's report

As Commission Treasurer, Michael Solem manages a checking account held at Wells Fargo Bank in Washington, D.C. As of July 1, 2013 there is a total of USD 4,773.18 available in the Commission's account.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Dates for your diary for future conferences include:

Lisbon (Portugal) August 14-16, 2014

Krakow (Poland) August 18-22, 2014

Moscow 2015

Beijing 2016

We would like to thank the support of our colleagues in Portugal and Singapore, as we look into the possibility of having some combined CGE symposium planned to coincide with the IGU conferences. At the moment we are preparing considering a Portuguese symposium to be held in Lisbon in August 2014, and a Singaporean symposium in 2016. Details will be published on the IGU-CGE website as they become available.

Other conference announcements and news

The fourth EUGEO Congress will take place in Rome, Italy, 5-7 September 2013, at the University of Rome La Sapienza and at the Società Geografica Italiana. The programme will include key-note speeches, paper sessions, poster sessions, thematic panels, scientific and social events. The title of the Congress is: **Europe, what's next? Changing geographies and geographies of change**. See for more information www.eugeo.org

The European Association of Geographers Annual Meeting will be held in Malta in 2014 between 15-17 May. **EUROGEO 2014 The Power of Geography**, Valletta, Malta. More information available at: <http://www.eurogeography.eu/conference/2014-malta/malta2014.html>

"Los nuevos escenarios geográficos y la enseñanza de la geografía en Chile" : The new geographical settings and geography teaching in Chile.

This is the second seminar related to geographical education that this time took place at *Universidad Autónoma de Talca* in the city of Talca on April 25 and 26, 2013. Professors from several universities in Chile attended this seminar to analyze new perspectives in geography and the geography teaching in the country. The results of this seminar will be published by the Chilean Society of Geographical Sciences (SOCHIGEO).

"New Perspectives in Geographical Education: Learning of Concepts and the Development of Cognitive Skills".

This seminar was supported by Vicerrectoría Académica and Direction of Investigation (DIULS) across the PROJECTS OF SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC EVENTS of The University of La Serena, Chile. The Department of Social sciences, across its Academic Program of Geographical Education, with Scuola Italiana Alcide De Gasperi developed the International Seminar in Geographical Education. The seminar sought to unite efforts to strengthen the Teachers' Network of Geography of the Region of Coquimbo and to continue the academic and pedagogic ties between teachers of geography education. The seminar was directed to Teachers of History, Geography and Social Sciences of basic and secondary Education, to update their knowledge in the field of the Geographical Sciences and to improve the learning of the Geography. Thanks go to Mg. Sandra Alvarez Barahona (salvarez@userena.cl) and Dr. Fabián Araya Palacios (faraya@userena.cl), of the Department of Social sciences of the University of La Serena for their co-ordination of the seminar.

Further announcements on Geographical Education

Doctoral writing and research skills workshop for European students of geography (and related subjects), Sofia, Bulgaria, sponsored by the European Commission, [29 October - 1 November 2013](#), <http://www.eurogeography.eu/workshop/doctoral-sofia-2013.htm>

Over 1,400 videos on teaching and learning geography and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) using geotechnologies are now on <http://www.youtube.com/geographyuberalles>.

Joseph Kerski created a series of “teaching spatial concepts” curricular components, each of which use a fast and free web-mapping tool, can be found on <http://edcommunity.esri.com/blog>. Specifically:

Teaching spatial concepts with drive-time buffers:

<http://blogs.esri.com/esri/gisedcom/2013/06/14/using-drive-time-buffers-to-teach-spatial-concepts/>

Teaching spatial concepts with Viewsheds: <http://blogs.esri.com/esri/gisedcom/2013/06/21/teaching-spatial-concepts-with-viewsheds/>

Teaching spatial concepts with zonal statistics: <http://blogs.esri.com/esri/gisedcom/2013/06/28/teaching-spatial-concepts-with-zonal-statistics/>

Publications

J-Reading (Journal of Research and Didactics in Geography). Our Italian colleagues are pleased to announce that the new issue of J-Reading is online. It is also possible to subscribe, completing the PDF form on www.j-reading.org.

This June issue of **Norwegian Journal of Geography** is dedicated to research on geography education. The special issue includes nine articles written by Nordic scholars. Guest editors are Jan Ketil Rød and Per Jarle Sætre.

Norsk geografisk tidsskrift has just published a special issue: Research on Geographical Education:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/sgeo20/current>

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New book: Published July 2013: **Spatial Mathematics**: CRC Press: Sandra Arlinghaus, Joseph Kerski

<http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466505322>

This book explores geographic and mathematical approaches to looking at real world issues that have mathematics as a critical, but often unseen, component. Contains practical hands-on activities using web mapping and online GIS tools as well as the foundation necessary for understanding and teaching the concepts.

Two forthcoming volumes explore the research-education nexus in **Earth and Environmental Sciences**.

- Geoscience Research and Education: Teaching at Universities
- Geoscience Research and Outreach: Schools and Public Engagement

The two volumes, edited by Vincent C.H. Tong, will be published by Springer in July and August 2013 and more information is available at:

<http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/science+education/book/978-94-007-6945-8>

<http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/science+education/book/978-94-007-6942-7>

Other recent publications include:

Bauer Itta, Landolt Sara (2013): Das kann man aber auch anders sehen! Bedeutungswandel und Subjektivität von Stadträumen. *Geographie heute* 311/312, 31-39.

Landtwing Blaser M. und Ziegler S. (2013): Touristische Resorts in den Alpen – Chancen und Risiken. Das Beispiel Andermatt Swiss Alps aus geographischer und historischer Perspektive. *Praxis Geographie* 5 | 2013, S. 4-14.

Reinfried, Sibylle (2013). Heidi oder Hightech – Mit Concept Maps Alpenklischees auf der Spur. *Praxis Geographie*

Reinfried, S. & Tempelmann, S. (2013): The Impact of Secondary School Students' Preconceptions on the Evolution of their Mental Models of the Greenhouse effect and Global Warming, *International Journal of Science Education*, DOI: 10.1080/09500693.2013.773598.

(Thanks to Simon Catling for compiling the following list of recent and relevant publications!)

Geography

- Alexander, N & Cooper, D (eds) (2013) *Poetry and Geography*, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press.
Dorling, D (2013) *Population 10 Billion*, London: Constable.
Emmett, S (2013) *10 Billion*, London: Penguin.
Haffner, J (2013) *The View from Above: The Science of Social Space*, Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.
Hennig, B (2013) *Rediscovering the World: Map Transformations of Human and Physical Space*, London: Springer.
Huth, J (2013) *The Lost Art of Finding Our Way*, Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press.

Geographical and Environmental Education

- de Leo, J (2012) *Quality Education for Sustainable Development*, Adelaide: UNESCO APNIEVE Australia.
Grigg, R & Hughes, S (2013) *Teaching Primary Humanities*, Harlow: Pearson.
Meier, D & Sisk-Hamilton, S (eds) (2013) *Nature Education with Young Children*, London: Routledge.
Pickford, T, Garner, W & Jackson, E (2013) *Primary Humanities: Learning through Enquiry*, London: Sage.
Rawding, C (2013) *Effective Innovation in the Secondary Geography Curriculum*, London: Routledge.
Scoffham, S (ed) (2013) *Teaching Geography Creatively*. London: Routledge.
Stevenson, R & Dillon, J (eds) (2010) *Engaging Environmental Education: Learning, Culture and Agency*, Boston: Sense Publishers.
Stevenson, R, Brody, M, Dillon, J & Wals, A (eds) (2013) *International Handbook of International Research on Environmental Education*, London: Routledge for AERA.
Wals, A & Corcoran, P (2012) *Learning for Sustainability in times of accelerating change*, Wageningen: Wageningen Academic Publishers.

Geographies of Education and Research

- Gulson, K (2011) *Education, Space and the City*, London: Routledge.
Kraftl, P (2013) *Geographies of Alternative Education*, Bristol: Policy Press.
Sellers, M (2013) *Young Children Becoming Curriculum*, London: Routledge.
Smeyers, P, Depaepe, M & Keiner, E (eds) (2013) *Educational Research: The Importance and Effects of Institutional Spaces*, New York: Springer.

Children's geographies

- Aslam, A (ed) (2013) *The State of the World's Children 2013: Children with Disabilities*, New York: UNICEF.
Darian-Smith, K & Pascoe, C (eds) (2013) *Children, Childhood and Cultural Heritage*, London: Routledge.
Robertson, M & Tani, S (eds) (2013) *Young People: Cross-cultural views and futures*, Camberwell, Victoria: ACER Press.
Taylor, A (2013) *Reconfiguring the Natures of Childhood*, London: Routledge.
Twum-Danso Imoh, A & Ame, R (eds) (2013) *Childhoods at the Intersection of the Local and the Global*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
Willett, R, Richards, C, Marsh, J, Burn, A & Bishop, J (2013) *Children, Media and Playground Cultures*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Curriculum news

In May this year the Chilean Ministry of Education presented a draft version of a curriculum that substantially changes the form and presence of Geography in primary and secondary in Chile:

1. The Ministry takes away the right - established by the General Education Act - to learn about space as it is constructed from a geographical perspective, instrumentalizing the knowledge of space and, pushing aside the relationships that societies have with their natural environment.

2. The Ministry has taken the decision to strengthen the fragmentation of knowledge of space and environment by separating the physical from the human contents, knowing that this causes the fragmentation of responsibilities with respect to the deterioration of landscapes and the fragility of places.
3. The Ministry has banalized the geographic language, thinking that students and teachers are unable to speak about natural hazards and risk, territorial occupation, urban inequalities, growth of agroindustrial capital, regional food sovereignty, migration and ghettoization, habitat destruction, resistance against environmental projects or public participation in planning instruments.

Support this call on facebook: [mineducnomateslageografia](#) or sign the online petition:

[http://www.peticiones24.com/signatures/rechazo a la reduccion del curriculum escolar de la geografia/](http://www.peticiones24.com/signatures/rechazo_a_la_reduccion_del_curriculum_escolar_de_la_geografia/)

The board of the Swiss ministers of education has recently released the new curriculum for the German speaking part of Switzerland. Geography and history are now forming a subject area which figures under the new name of "Spaces, times and societies". Experts of geographical education were invited to write the new curriculum ensuring that the most relevant geographical topics and themes of physical and human geography are included. The curriculum is set up around competences to be achieved. Unfortunately the total number of lessons taught from grade 7 to 9 will be reduced. The proposals are in their last round of consultation, and are scheduled for implementation in 2014. The curriculum can be found online under <http://www.lehrplan.ch/konsultation>-> Zum Lehrplan 21 -> Natur, Mensch und Gesellschaft – Räume, Zeiten, Gesellschaften

The English Government recently announced the new National Curriculum for England which we are pleased to say retains Geography as a foundation subject for students from aged 4 through to 14. The new curriculum has a stronger emphasis on content, and after much lobbying now contains a brief reference to climate change. The proposals are in their last round of consultation, and are scheduled for implementation in September 2014. More information on the proposal and the Geographical Association's role in the consultation can be found here:

<http://www.geography.org.uk/news/nationalcurriculumchanges/>

Clare Brooks - Executive Secretary to the IGU.CGE



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