

**International Geographical Union
Commission on Geographical Education
2012-2016**



Newsletter #8 March 2015

Contents

Welcome to Newsletter #8!.....	1
COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION NEWS.....	2
IGU-CGE Treasurer's report	3
IGU CGE CONFERENCE NEWS	3
Other conferences	4
Further announcements on Geographical Education.....	5
Publications.....	6

Welcome to Newsletter #8!

Dear Colleagues

The year 2015 is proving to be a significant one for Geography Education. We are delighted that the geographical education is such a strong focus on the IGU's Strategy for 2015-2022, and this combined with the upcoming meeting in Moscow, is a great opportunity for us to work together to improve geography education around the world. We are also happy that our number of Regional Contacts is growing every month. The map of our network – see our www.igu-cge.org - boasts new contacts in Spain, Indonesia, China and Canada.

It is with great sadness that we inform you that on January 12 a former member of the IGU Commission on Education, Academician Professor Vladimir Maksakovsky died in his 91st year. Vladimir is remembered with great fondness as an amazing character in the Russian Geography education world, who made a wonderful contribution to the field and to his country. He will be greatly missed.

As we write, preparations are also underway for the coming conference in Moscow this August. We have seven sessions on geography education, and are looking forward to a whole day celebrating geography education. We look forward to seeing you there!

Clare Brooks, John Lidstone and Joop van der Schee

COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION NEWS

We are pleased to announce the new Strategic Objectives for the IGU which place geography education firmly at the centre of the Commission's work. We look forward to working with the IGU to help realise these objectives:

Strategic objectives of the IGU STRATEGY FOR 2015-2022 (FROM THE IGU NEWSLETTER January 2015)

Geographical education should be a focus of IGU activity. Geographical education is vitally important for citizens of the 21st century and for all national geographical communities. Together with other international and national institutions, the IGU is responsible for keeping geography in curricula and for modernization of geographical courses in secondary school. This objective includes:

- elaboration of the internationally approved minimum of geographical knowledge for each citizen in the 21st century;
- adoption of the new Charter of Geographical Education;
- lobbying of geography at international and national governmental organizations (UNESCO, EU, etc.);
- identification and dissemination of the best practices of teaching at secondary school and at universities;
- elaboration of recommendations for teaching geography at schools of management, technical universities, etc.;
- development of contacts and cooperation with international organizations of young scholars – EGEA (European Geography Association for students and young geographers) and YES (Young Earth Scientists);
- establishment of IGU summer school for young scientists;
- organization of a special day for young geographers at each International Geographical Congress and Regional Conference.

International Declaration on Research in Geography Education

The IGU Commission on Geographical Education is continuing its work on the draft *International Declaration on Research in Geography Education*. Two key documents have been prepared:

- A brief Executive Statement;
- The full draft document: *International Declaration on Research in Geography Education*.

These have been posted on the IGU CGE website: <http://www.igu-cge.org/>. Both documents can be accessed through the link in the box at the top right on the Home page. The draft has now been circulated widely for comments and here will be a further opportunity to discuss the draft *International Declaration* at the CGE supported Geography Education Symposium in London in April 2015 (for further information see elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Research in Geography Education

A reminder also for any new research in geography education to be added to our web-based template to collect and collate information on Geography Education MA, MEd, EDD and PhD theses around the world. Creating this collection will greatly enhance our knowledge about geographical and environmental education. The on-line spreadsheet can then be made available for researchers through the IGU-CGE website. We hope that all geography educators with the help of the regional representatives would be able to contribute information on the existing Geography Education theses.

(Geography Education Collection: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nrbVzveqZWDWWdouJfnKAK-ctHdDkWOdt7xxt34mee8/viewform?usp=send_form)

Over thirty years in the front row of developing Geography Teaching and Learning



Docent, Counsellor of Education Mrs. Lea Houtsonen has been working in the Finnish National Board of Education since 2001. Before that she was working at the University of Helsinki, Department of Geography in many different positions. Her main responsibilities in FNBE have been the teaching and learning of biology and geography, sustainable development education and environmental education. She is widely known across the Finnish Education sector.

Lea has also been chair of IGU's Commission on Geographical Education between 2000-2004. During that time special emphasis was given to Information and Communication Technology in Geographical Education, especially how to use Geographical Information Systems in the teaching and learning of Geography. For Lea another important thing was also to involve more researchers from developing countries to take part in the work of the Commission. During Lea's time as chair many important publications were made, for example International Handbook on Geographical Education, International Perspectives on Natural Disasters, Geographical Education for Sustainable Living and GeoJournal.

Lea Houtsonen is retiring from the Finnish National Board of Education as of the 1st of April, 2015. At this point we all want to thank her for her contribution known to us all working in the field Geographical Education. We all wish you a stress-free life full of success and happiness in the Finnish forests and lakes!

Jukka Tulivuori, Counsellor of Education, Lea Houtsonen's successor
jukka.tulivuori@oph.fi

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 February 15, 2015 there is a total of USD 5,134.21 available in the Commission's account.

IGU CGE CONFERENCE NEWS

2015 Moscow IGU Congress

The Abstracts for the Moscow congress have now been received and the conference programme is being prepared. Full details can be found on the [Congress website](#). Session titles include:

1. Geography Teacher Education: the need for a well-prepared professional body of knowledge.
2. Geospatial technologies in geographical education: implications for geographical lessons.
3. Integrated school discipline and geography: new challenges and capacities.
4. National curricula and international standards for geography education.
5. National and international assessment in geography education.

6. Empirical and classroom research in geography education.
7. International links and innovations in geography education.

Special sessions also include:

- Education Day on August 20th, 2015: Sharing the Russian experience in geography education and making connections for schoolteachers.
- Special session about The International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU).
- Workshops Training of Presentation Skills for young academics.

We like to bring all sessions under the umbrella of the Commission on Geographical Education to avoid confusion and to optimize discussion. The session about The International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) is organised together with Professor Benno Werlen (IYGU), Professor Vladimir Kolosov (IGU), Professor Henk Ottens (EUGEO) and Karl Donert (EUROGEO). The panel discussion in this session will focus on the role for geography education in the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU).

The Power of Geographical Thinking, London April 2015

The Commission is in collaboration with the Institute of Education (now The UCL Institute of Education) in London on the London for a joint conference entitled **"The Power of Geographical Thinking"**, to be held at the IOE in London on **April 13-15 2015**.

The conference is being organised by the UK Committee for IGU-CGE with the MA in Geography Education programme team at the IOE.

Beijing 2016

In 2016 the IGU congress will be in **Beijing, China**. The Commission on Geographical Education is preparing a pre-congress symposium in Singapore. The call for session proposals for the 33rd International Geographical Congress of the IGU to be held in Beijing, China, on **21-25 August 2016**, has already started. Suggestions are welcome.

Other conferences

New Zealand Social Science Teachers conference which provides support for Social Science Teachers:

SocCon 2015 Conference: 'Creating Collegial Connections' to be held at Nelson, New Zealand on 28-30th September 2015. For further information: www.soccon.net.nz

Communicating Geography: serving our world

The 2015 EUROGEO Annual Meeting and Conference will be organised in conjunction with and hosted by the Turkish Association of Geographers (TAG), in Ankara on 21-22 May 2015. An optional all day guided field visit to Cappadocia will take place on 23 May 2015.

We invite contributors from all areas of the discipline and related subjects to submit abstracts for oral presentations, hands-on workshops and posters at our 2015 Annual meeting. The conference theme is **"Communicating Geography: serving our world"**, though abstracts relating to other areas will also be welcome.

Deadlines: Paper, Poster and Workshop Abstracts March 12th 2015

See more at: <http://www.eurogeography.eu/2015-meeting-and-conference/>

Early bird rate ends March 12th 2015

Centennial Conference of the National Council for Geographic Education: 6-9 August 2015 Washington DC

USA: <http://www.ncge.org>

Esri GIS education conference, San Diego, California USA: <http://www.esri.com/educ> Teaching, learning, and research with geotechnologies.

2015 AAG Annual Meeting: Chicago, Illinois

The 2015 AAG Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois from April 21-25. A large number of geography education sessions are featured on the program. To view the preliminary program and for more information about the meeting, visit <http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting>

International Congress of the Turkish Association of Geographers, May 21-23, 2015

The Turkish Association of Geographers is going to organize its third annual international congress on May 21-23, 2015 in the capital city Ankara, Turkey. The congress is going to be organized together with the EUROGEO conference with the theme "Communicating Geography: Serving Our World". We would like to invite all geographers and researchers who are interested in geography to this unique congress. The details of the congress can be found at <http://www.cd.org.tr/?kongre>

Dialogic approaches to school improvement and cultural change: experiences from China and the UK

Inspired by a new international education publication and founded on the principle of learning together, this day conference shares an 'East meets West' dialogue around whole school improvement and cultural change. DECSY, together with key partners in Shanghai and England, invite you to hear first-hand from pioneers in this exciting initiative; to engage in active workshops; and to partake in dialogic spaces that bring learning concepts to life. To be held on Friday 19 June 2015 at St Mary's Conference Centre, Sheffield
To book a place please contact Jane Anderson at DECSY by email - jane@decsy.org.uk
For more about the programme, workshops, travel guidance, further background or copies of the book, visit: www.eastmeetswest.lifeworldslearning.co.uk

Further announcements on Geographical Education

Research on the public image of geography

Recently the first results of an 'image study' conducted in 2013 have been published (Gans et al., 2014). 800 members of the public, 100 media representatives and 100 human resource managers have been interviewed to find out what they think about geography as a subject. As in former studies (e. g. Köck, 1997) one of the first outcomes was, that the public considered the subject important and interesting. Environmental education was perceived as the most important contribution of geography to education. Interestingly enough, looking back at Köck's results the members of the Green Party are least likely to agree with this, while the Free Democrats are most likely to share this perspective. A discourse that relates the different findings would be very enlightening. As well as a consideration of an even older study (Hard, Wenzel, 1979) that showed that while students of other subjects held quite a positive view of geography, the geography students themselves were the ones who thought most badly about the subject.

Gans, P., Heinritz, G., Hemmer, I., Hemmer, M., Miener, K., Nienaber, B., Pfalzgraf, A. und H. Schote (2014): DGfG-Studie zum Image der Geographie – Anlage und erste Ergebnisse. In: *Rundbrief Geographie* (246), 4-8.

Hard, G., Wenzel, H.-J. (1979). Wer denkt eigentlich schlecht von der Geographie? Neues zur Studienmotivation im Fach Geographie. In *Geographische Rundschau* 31 (6), 262-268.

Köck, H. (1997). *Zum Bild des Geographieunterrichts in der Öffentlichkeit*. Gotha: Klett-Perthes.

I-Use Statistics in Education Course for teachers and trainers

Statistical approaches offer tools to help organize and interpret data. The objective of I-Use is to focus on teaching and learning activities considered necessary for the professional development of teachers and trainers. I-Use has developed ready made lesson materials and a toolbox to easily create own statistics. All materials can be found on <http://www.i-use.eu>. A European in-service training course within the framework of Erasmus+ KA1 will deal with how to make sense of statistical information through different presentation forms and media. The participants will understand how to develop students' statistical concepts and thinking. Special attention will be paid to international databases and functionality related to presentation of data in graphs, tables and maps as well as comparisons of time-series data sets. Register for the course at: <http://www.i-use.eu/resources/courses.html>

GeoCapabilities workshops

The GeoCapabilities project will preview an online teacher training course under development at the 2015 Geographical Association Annual Conference and the 2015 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, both held in April. For further details, visit www.geocapabilities.org

National Center for Research in Geography Education update

The National Geographic Society's Education Foundation has awarded the AAG a grant to involve several Geographic Alliances in the work of the National Center for Research in Geography Education, a research consortium led by the AAG and Texas State University. In January 2015, the Coordinators of the Alabama, California, Iowa, and Kansas Geographic Alliances met over two days with the NCRGE Co-Directors, Michael Solem and Richard Boehm, and several researchers associated with two current NCRGE research initiatives funded by the National Science Foundation: GeoProgressions, a capacity-building project for learning progressions research, and GeoSTEM (GeoSpatial Teaching Enrichment Modules), a pilot project that is supporting the Esri-ConnectED initiative by creating ArcGIS Online-based resources, materials and tools for STEM teacher education programs.

On February 1, 2015, an academic delegation from East China Normal University visited the campus of Texas State University. The ECNU delegation met with NCRGE Co-Directors, Dr. Michael Solem and Dr. Richard Boehm, and Geography Professor Osvaldo Muñiz to plan future research collaborations and scholarly exchanges with the NCRGE research coordination network. The first official collaboration between ECNU and NCRGE will take place in March 2015 when Dr. Solem travels to Shanghai to teach a graduate class based on the GeoProgressions project. ECNU faculty recently completed a Chinese translation of the GeoProgressions research handbook.

Further information about NCRGE is available at www.ncrge.org

GeoProgressions workshop

This workshop, scheduled for April 24 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at the 2015 AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago, will introduce participants to learning progressions and their potential applications in geography classrooms. Learning progressions describe how children become more sophisticated in their understanding of disciplinary concepts over successive grade bands. Participants in this workshop will study examples of learning progressions and some of the methods applied by researchers to gather evidence of student comprehension of fundamental and complex concepts related to learning with maps, geospatial technology and spatial thinking. Participants will also receive a complimentary research handbook and learn about opportunities to join a research coordination network that was recently formed by the GeoProgressions project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Publications

Call for papers on Geography Education: current trends and anomalies in curriculum, pedagogy and assessment for publication in the Journal of Social Sciences. Please get in touch if you are interested in contributing a paper of between 6-8000 words to: Dr Sadhana Manik at manik@ukzn.ac.za

A new scientific journal titled “Turkish Journal of Geography Education” launched.

The Turkish Association of Geographers has launched a new scientific journal titled “Turkish Journal of Geography Education”. Turkish Journal of Geography Education publishes scholarly, research-based articles on geographical and environmental education which draw particularly upon studies that contribute to learning and teaching in geographical education nationally and internationally and creating a learning community among academic researchers, theorists, teachers, curriculum developers, policy-makers and educational administrators. The journal publishes manuscripts, both in Turkish and English online. The first issue of the journal (2015 winter) has been published. The second issue (2015 summer) will be published in July. Although based in Turkey, Turkish Journal of Geography Education welcomes contributors from different educational systems and countries. All the details about the journal can be found at <http://www.cd.org.tr/?cografya-egitim-dergisi&changelang=EN>

New Chapter on Global education and citizenship: entitled : Service Learning as Post-colonial Discourse: Active Global Citizenship, by Fran Martin & Fatima Pirbhai-Illich. For more details see the book flyer and first chapter <https://www.sensepublishers.com/media/2270-contesting-and-constructing-international-perspectives-in-global-education.pdf>

Geography Education in Japan

Eds. Y.Ida, M.Yuda, T.Shimura, S.Ike, K,Ohnishi and H.Oshima. 2015, Springer Japan, Tokyo, x x +243p

This is the first English publication on geography education in Japan.

25 Japanese geography education researchers/teachers; set out the whole picture of Japanese education systems, providing teaching contents on geography in Japanese schools, explains and discusses the past and future of geography education in Japan. Details at:

<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/geography/book/978-4-431-54952-9>

Leder, Stephanie & Bharucha, Erach (2015). **Changing the Educational Landscape in India by transnational policies: New Perspectives promoted through Education for Sustainable Development**. ASIEN 134 (1) , p. 167 – 192. (refereed article).

Yunis , E. S. (2015). **The Effectiveness of Using Social Communication Networks in Teaching Geography to Develop Academic Achievement and Self-Efficacy Of College of Education Students**. Journal of Educational & Psychological Studies - Sultan Qaboos University- 9 (1), 197- 210.

<http://www.squ.edu.om/tabid/10654/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Geo-awareness, geo-enablement, geotechnologies, citizen science, and storytelling: Geography on the world stage. New article from Joseph Kerski in Geography Compass 9(1): 14-26. January 2015. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gec3.12193/abstract>

Off the beaten path: A 3D scene for the Poles of Inaccessibility. Student activity. Explore the use of 3D scenes for teaching other topics:

<http://blogs.esri.com/esri/gisedcom/2015/02/06/remote-locations-3d-scene/> by Joseph Kerski.

A new publication by Dr. Anne Dolan, has been shortlisted for the prestigious United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) Academic Book Award 2015. Her book '**You, Me and Diversity: Picturebooks for teaching development and intercultural education**' is an important new resource for student and primary teachers.



Published in the summer of 2014 by Trentham Books and IOE Press (London), *You, Me and Diversity*, promotes the use of picturebooks to support critical thinking, global citizenship and the articulation of children's voice in the classroom. These picturebooks feature development and intercultural themes such as climate change, migration and social justice, and range from the earthquake in Haiti to the struggle for civil rights in the United States of America. *You, Me and Diversity* is the culmination of three years of research and was partly inspired political commitments to increasing an emphasis on literacy with no arrangement for geography.

The winner of the UKLA Academic Book Award will be announced during the UKLA International Conference to be held at the College for Leadership, Nottingham July 10-12th 2015.

Some Recent Publications of possible interest to geography educators

(As ever our thanks go to Professor Simon Catling for assembling such an impressive list!)

Geographical and environmental studies

Aitken, S. & Valentine, G. (Eds.) (2015) *Approaches to Human Geography: Philosophies, Theories, People and Practices*. [2nd edition] London: Sage.

Boyle, M. (2015) *Human Geography: A Concise Introduction*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell.

Couper, P. (2015) *A Student's Introduction to Geographical Thought*. London: Sage.

Cresswell, T. (2015) *Place: An introduction* (2nd edition). Chichester: Wiley Blackwell.

Gooley, T. (2014) *How to connect with nature*. Basingstoke: Macmillan.

Loewen, G. (2015) *Place Meant: Hermeneutic Landscapes of the Spatial Self*. Plymouth: University Press of America.
Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos, A. (2015) *Spatial Justice: Body, Lawscape and Atmosphere*, Abingdon: Routledge.
Short, J.R. (2015) *Human Geography: A Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

History of geography

Sanchez, I. & Montgomery, J. (Eds.) (2014) *Epistles of the Brethren of Purity – On Geography: An Arabic Critical Edition and English Translation of Epistle 4*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cartography

Bodenhamer, D., Corrigan, J. & Harris, T. (Eds.) (2015) *Deep Maps and Spatial Narratives*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Bryers, T. & Harper, T. (2014) *A History of the 20th Century in 100 Maps*. London: British Library.

Peterson, M. (2014) *Mapping in the Cloud*. London: Guildford Press.

Seed, P. (2014) *The Oxford Map Companion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The Times (2014) *The Times History of the World in Maps*. Glasgow: HarperCollins.

Tyner, J. (2015) *The World of Maps: Map Reading and Interpretation for the 21st Century*. London: The Guildford Press.

Geographical and environmental education

Butt, G. (2015) *MasterClass in Geography Education*. London: Bloomsbury.

Davis, J. (Ed.) (2015) *Young Children and the Environment: Early education for sustainability*. (2nd Edition). Port Melbourne, Aus: Cambridge University Press.

Gough, S. (2015) *Education, Nature and Society*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Jucker, R. (2014) *Do We Know What We Are Doing? Reflections on Learning, Knowledge, Economics, Community and Sustainability*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Jucker, R. & Mather, R. (Eds.) (2015) *Schooling for Sustainable Development in Europe*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Peterson, A. & Warwick, P. (2015) *Global Learning and Education: Key concepts and effective practice*. London: Routledge.

Spatial thinking

Montello, D., Grossner, K. & Janelle, D. (Eds.) (2014) *Space in Mind: Concepts for Spatial Learning and Education*. Cambridge, Ma: MIT.

Solem, M., Tu Huynh, N. & Boehm, R. (Eds.) (2014) *Learning Progressions for Maps, Geospatial technology and Spatial thinking: A Research Handbook*. Washington, DC: Association of American Geographers.

Curriculum, space and place

Callejo Perez, D., Breault, D. & White, W. (2014) *Curriculum as spaces: Aesthetics, community and the politics of place*. Oxford: Peter Lang.

Demarest, A. (2015) *Place-based Curriculum Design: Exceeding Standards through Local Investigations*. New York: Routledge.

Temple, P. (Ed.) (2014) *The Physical University: Contours of space and place in higher education*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Clare Brooks - Executive Secretary to the IGU.CGE



Contact us directly: igucge@gmail.com
IGU-CGE Website: <http://www.igu-cge.org/>