

**International Geographical Union  
Commission on Geographical Education  
2008-2012**

**Newsletter #8, August 2011**

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

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**1. Introduction from the Honorary Secretary**

We seem to have a 'bumper issue' once again. There does appear to be a lot happening around the world in geographical education. This is very good news. Not that all is easy, as reports in section 13 of this Newsletter indicate with curriculum changes in Ireland and England, which may prove challenging in their different ways. I do urge you to respond to the call from Ireland (see 13.2 below), as we did in the case of geography in schools in Italy recently, to support the argument for retaining geography clearly in the Irish school curriculum.

This issue contains more details of the IGU Conference in Santiago, Chile, in November, at which the CGE will have three Commission sessions. There is still room to attend, so do follow up by looking at the website. There are more details about the IGU Congress in Cologne in August 2012, with its ten geography education sessions, and of the Pre-Congress Symposium at Freiberg just before it. So do please check through section 9 below. In section 10 a wide variety of other conferences relevant to geographical education are included. We have an innovation in this issue, in section 7, with the advert for the appointment of a professor in geographical education and the Directorship of the Gilbert Grosvenor Center at Texas State University - San Marcos. We hear also from colleagues in Japan about the response to the appeal for the schools in the tsunami-hit north-east of the country.

There is news about the next Geography Olympiad, as well as about the publication of the Proceedings of the IGU CGE Regional Symposium in Istanbul in 2010, which can be accessed through the Symposium website. We have also received more information on research activities, new publications, EURGEO and much else that has been included in this Newsletter. As the northern hemisphere moves into its next educational season, may I wish you all a good rest of 2012.

Professor Simon Catling,  
Oxford Brookes University, UK.  
[sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk)

## 2. From the IGU CGE Chair: Professor Lex Chalmers

Kia ora tatou (Greetings to you all),

I trust our northern hemisphere colleagues have had a productive summer, but at least a week or two of restorative time to do the family and recreation things we all need to do. Of course, we've worked through winter in the southern hemisphere (the first few flakes of snow in Hamilton in living memory), and the pressures of the teaching year to the point that we have just six weeks of teaching before the end of the academic (undergraduate) year. There is much to report in this Newsletter, and Simon has done an excellent job in getting us all to collaborate.

Regional Conferences have been a feature of Commission activities. As we look to fine-tune the planning for Santiago, I think back to Lucerne, Taipei, London, Hamilton, Beijing, Tsukuba and Istanbul as places we have met outside IGU 'conventions'. Santiago will be the last regional meeting of the current Commission, so while I'd like to welcome all of you to Santiago, I would also like to thank all the local organising committees for their energy, hospitality and organisational skills. Osvaldo Muniz is doing the job for us in Santiago, and you'll find a report from the conference 'coal face' elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The last Newsletter addressed the issue of forming an IGU Commission on Geographical Education for the period 2012-2016 and called for proposals from interested parties; the proposals were to be lodged with the Honorary Secretary, Simon Catling. The protocol is for a submission to be received by the IGU Executive in their final meeting of the year proceeding the IGU Congress (IGU Congresses are held every four years and the next one is in Köln in 2012). The Executive will consider (competing) bids and endorse a range of Commissions for formal ratification at the General Assembly at Köln. The Commission has received a very sound proposal from two colleagues and with minor modification this will go forward in their names with endorsements from existing Steering Commission members. I think it would be useful to publicise the proposal in our next Newsletter after our colleagues are assured of Executive support.

Finally, I am not sure how many people take the time to read the widely-distributed IGU Newsletter, or to visit the re-developed IGU website at <http://www.igu-online.org/>. Several things caught my eye in the latest edition: the annual Commission funding has increased from \$600US to \$1000US, and the Commission was formally thanked for our contribution to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs dialogues on behalf of the IGU. I recommend a quick scan of the IGU postings alongside regular visits to our own website, <http://www.igu-cge.org/> which is maintained by Joop van der Schee. Newsletter No.7 (April 2011) on the site contains the details of a symposium to be held from August 22nd to 25th, 2012, in Freiburg, Germany. Further details will be available on the website at: <http://home.ph-freiburg.de/geo/igu/>.

With best wishes again from 37 degrees and 47 minutes South,

Lex Chalmers  
Chair, IGU Commission on Geographical Education  
University of Waikato  
Hamilton, New Zealand  
[lex@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:lex@waikato.ac.nz)

## 3. Proposal for a New IGU CGE Commission 2012-2016

In the last Newsletter I included the request for proposals to be made in preparation for a new Commission on Geographical Education to take up the work of the current Commission during 2012-16. The deadline set was July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. I am happy to say that a proposal for a new Commission was forthcoming. There was only one. A full proposal document was received jointly from Professors John Lidstone (Australia) and Joop van der Schee (The Netherlands) and this has

been circulated among the Steering Group of the current Commission for consideration and comment. The feedback received has been positive, with some suggestions for amendments.

The process, as Lex has noted, is that the proposal will be discussed at the meeting of the Commission at the IGU Regional Conference in Chile in November. It will also be brought to the attention of the IGU Executive and feedback sought. Once this process has been completed, the proposers will consider any amendments and put forward their final proposal document. We hope that this will be able to be completed during the rest of this year and that the final proposal can be included in the next Newsletter. It will then be put to the IGU Executive formally at the Congress in Cologne, after which if all is acceptable its members will take up their role and lead the Commission from 2012 to 2016.

#### **4. Commission website: [www.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org)**

Information from you for our website is very welcome. If you have something to report about geography in education projects, publications, or congresses, please send it to: [henk@anaximander.nl](mailto:henk@anaximander.nl) or [j.a.vander.schee@vu.nl](mailto:j.a.vander.schee@vu.nl) (webmasters).

[www.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org) has the International Charter on Geographical Education now available online in 22 languages.

At the website you will also find WIKIGEO which aims to give information to geography teachers and geographers in education worldwide about geographical education for students between 5 and 18 year old. It offers the opportunity to communicate about geography teaching in primary and secondary education. We hope that this helps to improve the quality of geography teaching and geographical education all over the globe.

We invite geographers in education all over the world to inform us about the geography education of 5-18 year olds in their country answering some questions (see [www.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org)), and we hope to receive examples of good practice in geographical education to help geography teachers in other countries. Thanks in advance!

Joop van der Schee

#### **5. IGU-CGE Treasurer's report**

As Commission Treasurer, Michael Solem manages a banking account held at Wachovia Bank in Washington, D.C. As of August 24, 2011, there are USD \$3,987.58 total funds available in the Commission's banking account.

The most recent expenditure of USD \$340 occurred on May 13, 2011. These funds, less a USD \$40 fee, were transferred by international wire to defray costs related to the April 2011 Commission conference in London.

#### **6. Thanks for your responses to the 'Japan Tsunami After-effect Appeal'**

We wish to offer our appreciation for the global response we have received to support our efforts to help the suffering of schools in Japan. There was a 'Japan Tsunami After-effect Appeal for Support' in Newsletter No. 7, April 30th, 2011.

The Association of Japanese Geographers has been carrying out a support project to 'Provide geography teaching materials to suffering schools with Japan's earthquake, tsunami and nuclear

crisis zone since 11th March, 2011', under the auspices of The Geographic Education Society of Japan and Japan Association on Geographic Space. We asked for donations for this project. This campaign was closed at the end of July. We have had many donations from all over the world. We, Japanese Geography educators and teachers, very sincerely appreciate all of our IGU-CGE contacts' and friends' support.

Many students and schools suffered and have been struggling with teaching until now. Over 5 months have passed since that fateful day. The project task force team estimated that over 140 devastated schools needed support for teaching materials, that is around 85 primary, 40 junior high and 20 high schools. The team has received much support for the needs of these schools, and is distributing the donations to the schools. Japanese Geography educators and teachers thank all of you again.

We anticipate that you would wish to know of the geographical information about this crisis in English for your lessons or other usage. The following is the Emergency page on the 2011 East Japan Earthquake by The Tohoku Geographical Association. This English home page is sent from a geography department in disaster area, in Northeast Japan. If this page is useful for you, it has been our pleasure to provide it: <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/tga/disaster/disaster-e.html>

Yoshiyasu Ida,  
IGU CGE Steering Group,  
Graduate School of Comprehensive School Sciences,  
Institute of Education,  
University of Tsukuba,  
Japan

## 7. Position Vacant

This is a job advert for someone in geographical education who might be interested in this senior-level appointment at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, U.S.A.

We do not normally provide this information, but this does seem a particularly opportune post.

Dr. Philip W. Suckling, Professor and Chair, Department of Geography Texas State University-San Marcos, writes:

The Department of Geography at Texas State University-San Marcos invites applications for the **Jesse H. Jones Distinguished Chair of Geographic Education** who will also serve as **Director of The Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education**.

This will be a tenured appointment at the full Professor rank, effective Fall 2012. A PhD in Geography or closely related field is required. Required attributes for the successful candidate include: strong publication record in geographic education; well-versed in educational theories in teaching and research; significant record of successful grant acquisition and management in the field of geographic education; quality graduate teaching record including experience mentoring or working with graduate students preferably at the PhD level; evidence of maintaining an active national and international network of professional geography education collaborators; experience providing leadership in geographic education at the state, national or international level; successful management experience such as direction of a major grant, research center or other administrative activities including oversight of staff. To be eligible for hire, applicant must meet the departmental and university requirements for a tenured professor at Texas State University-San Marcos.

Duties of the successful candidate will include: management and direction of the activities of The Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education and its staff; graduate-level teaching, including advising and mentoring of graduate students especially for the PhD program in geographic education; publication of scholarly research, to also include working professionally with

graduate students on publications; acquisition and management of external grants with a focus on geographic education; working with university officials to acquire external funds through development activities; interacting with leading geographic educators throughout Texas, the United States and internationally; maintaining strong ties with the National Geographic Society including administration of the endowed Grosvenor Scholars' Program; and participation in department and university activities and service assignments appropriate for a tenured member of the faculty.

The Department of Geography has over 30 full-time faculty members serving BA, BS, MS, Master of Applied Geography, and three PhD programs. Note that the department also co-hosts the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education which is an alliance of K-12 and university educators promoting geographic education throughout the state, supported in part by grants from the National Geographic Society.

Applicants must electronically submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names of at least three references to: [ps33@txstate.edu](mailto:ps33@txstate.edu). Review of applications will begin on October 10, 2011 and continue until the position is filled. Texas State University-San Marcos will not discriminate against any person in employment or exclude any person from participating in or receiving the benefits of any of its activities or programs on any basis prohibited by law, including race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, disability, veterans' status, or on the basis of sexual orientation. Equal employment opportunities shall include: personnel transactions of recruitment, employment, training, upgrading, promotion, demotion, termination, and salary. Texas State University-San Marcos is a member of the Texas State University System.

**Apply:** Dr. Philip W. Suckling, Professor and Chair, Department of Geography, Texas State University-San Marcos, San Marcos, TX 78666-4616. Voice: 512-245-2170. Fax: 512-245-8353. E-mail: [ps33@txstate.edu](mailto:ps33@txstate.edu)

## 8. 2012 International Geography Olympiad

The next International Geography Olympiad is to be in Cologne in Germany. The 2012 Olympiad will start at August 21<sup>st</sup> and end on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The local organisers can host 30 teams. Alongside the written test, a multimedia test and a one full day fieldwork excursion are part of the programme. Invitations for the 2012 Olympiad are being sent to participants of earlier Olympiads and to IGU contacts. Applications should be sent to the Secretariat by January 1<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The local organising committee in Germany is already preparing the accommodation and the programme. More information can be found on the Olympiad website at [www.geoolympiad.org](http://www.geoolympiad.org).

## 9. CGE Sponsored Geography Education Conferences

There are a number of IGU and Commission sponsored Conferences planned over the next few years. Information about these is provided below. As more details become available these will be included in future *Newsletters* and on the commission's website. Please keep me informed. Where you can please provide the detail that is given below about the London 2011 IGU CGE Symposium.

### 9.1 IGU Regional Conference, Santiago, Chile, November 2011

A regional IGU Conference is to be held in Santiago, Chile in late 2011.

**Date:** November 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Venue:** Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins Military School, Santiago, Chile.

**Theme:** 'United and Integrated with the World'.

Further information on the conference, its organization and sub-themes can be found on the website.

Professor Josefina Ostuni reports that on “December 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 a Meeting took place in Chile Ambassade in Buenos Aires in order to inform geographers and scientists about the different activities of the next Conference. The organizer hopes to receive geographers from different countries. It is possible to get more information on the web:

**Website:** [www.igi2011.cl/](http://www.igi2011.cl/)

**Email:** [infor@ugi2011.cl](mailto:infor@ugi2011.cl)

**Hosted by:** Institute of Military Geography

The Commission has accepted the invitation of the Local Organising Committee (LoC) to run a program within the IGU Regional Conference in Santiago, on 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The venue for the Regional Conference is the “Liberator Bernardo O’Higgins” Military School; it is close to hotels, the urban transport network, several local restaurants, stores and services. The website for the Conference is at <http://www.ugi2011.cl/>. The Regional Conference provides the Commission with an important opportunity to extend the work of the Commission to the Spanish-speaking community, and to build interest in the Commission’s activities in Latin America. Osvaldo Muniz is a member of the Commission Steering Group. He has developed the elements of the Commission’s program reported below.

Presentation of papers. The call for papers went out with the second circular published earlier in the year. The final date for the submission of papers and abstracts (to be pre-published in the Conference Proceedings) was 30 August, 2011. The papers and abstract submissions will be reviewed by the LoC in the following two weeks, with the Conference Program confirmed on 15 September. Within the program the Commission will have several sessions devoted to papers presented in the Commission’s name. Commission members will chair these sessions. At this point more than 30 Commission members have registered for the Conference.

Business meetings. The Commission has applied to have three business sessions within the Regional Conference. Details of these meetings will be provided in the Conference Handbook.

- Fabián Araya-Palacios (Universidad de La Serena, Chile) will chair a meeting entitled *the Present Development of Geographical Education in Latin America*. The panellists will be João Francisco de Abreu, (Pontificia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais, Brazil), Iliana Araya-Ramírez, (Universidad Nacional Heredia, Costa Rica) and Josefina Ostuni (Academia Nacional de Geografía Buenos Aires, Argentina).
- Lex Chalmers will chair a virtual meeting entitled Geographical Education Using Digital Technology: The use of Virtual Communities of Practice. The panellists will be Osvaldo A. Muniz-Solari (Department of Geography, Texas State University, USA), Michael Solem (Director of Educational Affairs, Association of American Geographers, USA) and Paul Keown/Janey Nolan from (University of Waikato, New Zealand). Steering Committee and Corresponding members of the Commission are especially welcome to connect to this session digitally; we will advise the time date and connection options for this meeting when they are confirmed.
- Regional Conference Welcome to delegates. The Commission will host a meet-and-greet function as an early session at the Conference. At this meeting light refreshments will be served. There will be a presentation on the activities of the Commission and of the prospects for a subsequent 2012-2016 Commission. The Commission will invite attendees to become corresponding members, and seek some regional representatives to promote Commission activities.

Field Trips. The LoC has organized local tours and visits to sites of particular interest. Some of these are included in the cost of conference registration. There are also a number of field trips

planned, and the Commission will inform those registered for the Conference about the trips that will have Commission members in attendance. The possibilities include:

- DISCOVERING THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF CENTRAL SANTIAGO. The trip will assess the growth of Santiago visiting some traditional neighbourhoods (One day)
- THE COPIAPÓ VALLEY IN THE ATACAMA DESERT. The trip includes visits to the City of La Serena (500 km to the north of Santiago). An agricultural valley around the city of Copiapo and in the desert of Atacama (805 km to the north of Santiago). (4 days).

Accommodation. On the Regional Conference website, the LoC offers a number of accommodation options. All of these options offer an English-speaking service and range from standard to quality options, generally at less than \$100US a day. For six nights in the Novotel, for example, the Conference rate is \$640US. The Novotel is 10 minutes from the Conference venue. The Commission is also looking at a range of other options including some self-service apartments and cheaper hotels. Those registered for the conference will receive further information but you are welcome to contact Osvaldo to learn about what will be on offer [o.muniz@txstate.edu](mailto:o.muniz@txstate.edu)

Contacts. Osvaldo Muniz ([o.muniz@txstate.edu](mailto:o.muniz@txstate.edu)) and Lex Chalmers ([lex@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:lex@waikato.ac.nz)) are in touch with the LoC regularly, and they have joint responsibility for organizing Commission activities at the Regional Conference. The LoC is responsive, but if you have questions that relate to activities of the Commission in Santiago, you are welcome to contact either Osvaldo or Lex.

Osvaldo Muniz  
Lex Chalmers

## 9.2 IGU Congress and Pre-Congress Commission on Geographical Education Symposium, August 2012

The major international pre-congress meeting of the Commission on Geographical Education (IGU – CGE) in Freiburg, Germany (August 22-25, 2012) and the Main Congress of the International Geographical Union (IGU-IGC) in Cologne, Germany (August 26-30, 2012) **are now just one year away.**

We encourage you to participate in both meetings. Each offers focused geographical education sessions, compelling keynote presentations, and opportunities to interact with colleagues from around the world.

To facilitate participation in both the Commission on Geographical Education (CGE) and the IGU meetings, there is a field experience planned from Freiburg to Cologne (including a boat trip on the Rhine) which is included in the pre-congress fee. The plan is to attend the pre-congress meeting in Freiburg, August 22-25, then travel with the Commission to Cologne to attend the main congress, August 26-30.

For detailed information, please visit the conference websites:

1. The Pre-Congress in Freiburg:

<http://home.ph-freiburg.de/geo/igu/index.html>

The call for papers for the IGU-CGE symposium in Freiburg/Germany (August 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2012) is now open. See: <http://home.ph-freiburg.de/geo/igu/Papers.html>. The organizing committee has prepared a great program that includes exciting social events and field trips. We are looking forward to welcoming many of you.

2. 32<sup>nd</sup> Internatiola Congress of the IGU in Cologne:

The call has beenn made for papers for the 32nd International Congress of the IGU in Cologne (August 26-30, 2012). See:

[http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?sub=12&ses\\_id=a7b28c6807bd6f68adf8ff398e6d1318](http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?sub=12&ses_id=a7b28c6807bd6f68adf8ff398e6d1318)

The sessions that concern geographical education are listed under C08.11 *Geographical Education*.

[http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder\\_id=84&ses\\_id=a7b28c6807bd6f68adf8ff398e6d1318](http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder_id=84&ses_id=a7b28c6807bd6f68adf8ff398e6d1318)

The ten sessions are included in Appendix A at the end of this Newsletter and can also be seen at: [http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder\\_id=84&ses\\_id=b73706e69bc7b86e0f6b16db2d875f24](http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder_id=84&ses_id=b73706e69bc7b86e0f6b16db2d875f24)

The Deadlines are:

- Pre-conference in Freiburg: the call for Papers will end on the 1st of December 2011.
- Main Congress in Cologne: the call for Papers will end on the 15th December 2011.

Fuller details are provided below in this Newsletter.

### **9.2.1 Pre-Congress: IGU-CGE Symposium to be held from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Freiburg, Germany**

On behalf of the German HGD (German Academic Association for Geography and its Didactics) the Commission on Geographical Education (CGE) of the International Geographical Union (IGU) invites you to our joint symposium "**Experience-based Geography Learning**". The Symposium will be held from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Freiburg, Germany. Further details will be available on our website homepage at: <http://home.ph-freiburg.de/geo/igu/Papers.html>

The IGU CGE Symposium is to be held immediately before the IGU's 32<sup>nd</sup> Congress in Freiburg, Germany. A stimulating program that includes key note speeches, scientific sessions and field trips combined with social events, awaits you.

The Pre-Congress Symposium ends with your transfer on August 25<sup>th</sup> by bus and boat travel, on the Rhine, from Freiburg to Cologne where the main IGU Congress starts on August 26<sup>th</sup> (<http://www.igc2012.org/>).

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Freiburg.  
Gregor Falk, Hartwig Haubrich, Yvonne Schleicher & Sibylle Reinfried

**Dates:** August 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Venue:** University of Education, Freiburg, Germany.

#### **Invitation to the IGU-CGE Pre-Conference in Freiburg (Germany) August 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

On behalf of the Commission on Geographical Education (CGE) the Organizing Committee of the IGU-CGE pre-conference invites you to our Symposium in Freiburg (Germany) to be held Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Symposium runs in association with the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Geographical Congress of the International Geographical Union (IGU) on Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup> to Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The IGU Conference website is: [www.igc2012.org](http://www.igc2012.org).

**Theme:** *Experience-based Learning in Geography*.

**Call for papers:** Starts on June 1st, 2011 and will be open till September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

#### **Organizing Committee**

Prof. Dr. Gregor Falk, University of Education, Freiburg, Germany

Prof. Dr. Hartwig Haubrich, University of Education, Freiburg, Germany

Prof. Dr. Yvonne Schleicher, University of Education, Weingarten, Germany



Prof. Dr. Sibylle Reinfried, University of Teacher Education Central Switzerland Lucerne and Full Member of the IGU CGE

## **Preliminary Program**

### **Wednesday, August 22nd, 2012**

Registration open 3 pm  
Field Trip in the City of Freiburg  
Opening Reception  
Conference Dinner

### **Thursday August 23th, 2012**

Scientific sessions  
Field Trip to the Kaiserstuhl Area near Freiburg  
Wine Tasting and Dinner in a Local Vinery

### **Friday August 24th, 2012**

Scientific sessions  
Closing Ceremony  
Field Trip to the Black Forest  
Evening Reception and Dinner

### **Saturday August 25th, 2012**

Field Trip transfer from Freiburg to Cologne by bus and boat.

### **Sunday August 26th, 2012**

Registration and start of Main Conference

Prof. Dr. Sibylle Reinfried  
Geographie und Geographiedidaktik  
Pädagogische Hochschule Zentralschweiz (PHZ) Luzern  
Institut für Lehren und Lernen  
<http://www.sibylle-reinfried.ch>

## **9.2.2 32<sup>nd</sup> International Geographical Congress 2012 to be held from August 26<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Cologne, Germany**

As at previous IGU Congresses and Regional Conferences, there will be Commission on Geographical Education sessions during the Congress.

**Date:** August 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Venue:** University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.

**Theme:** 'Down to Earth'

The 32<sup>nd</sup> International Geographical Congress will 'focus scientific attention on the core themes of humanity'. Further information on the conference, its organization and sub-themes will become available on the website.

**Website:** [www.igc2012.org](http://www.igc2012.org).

### **Key dates:**

Reduced Congress Registration Fees: up to March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012.  
Registration for the Congress and the fieldtrips: up to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.  
Last opportunity for Congress Registration: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

**CGE strand in the Congress.**

The IGC 2012 offers a business meeting and ten CGE Commission sessions from August 26<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012, on the following topics:

1. State of the Art in Geographical Education
2. Students' Interests of Geographical Topics, Regions and Methods
3. Examples of Best Practice in Geography Education and Teacher Preparation
4. Innovative Learning - New & Traditional Media
6. Standards Concepts and Experience
7. Education for Sustainable Development and Global Learning
8. Spatial Thinking
9. Risk Education
10. Urbanization in Geographical Education

**See: Appendix A** at the end of this Newsletter for the full outline of the Topic sessions.

In addition, sessions will be offered in German on behalf of the German Academic Association of Geographical Education and the German Geography Teacher's Association.

**Call for papers:** this will be open from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup> 2011, review and selection of papers and posters will be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Further information is available under [http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder\\_id=84&ses\\_id=b73706e69bc7b86e0f6b16db2d875f24](http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder_id=84&ses_id=b73706e69bc7b86e0f6b16db2d875f24)

**Contact:**

IGC 2012 Organizing Committee

E-Mail: [info@igc2012.org](mailto:info@igc2012.org)

On behalf of IGU-CGE and the German HGD for sessions on geographical education

Prof. Dr. Ingrid Hemmer

[ingrid.hemmer@ku-eichstaett.de](mailto:ingrid.hemmer@ku-eichstaett.de)

<http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/news>

Please also note the following Calls for papers at the IGU 2012 conference in Cologne:

1. Theme: Global Change and Globalisation.  
*Session title:* Digital Earth: an opportunity for spatial citizenship
2. Theme: Global Change and Globalisation.  
*Session title:* Mapping the emergence of change: future European perspectives

Web: <http://bit.ly/quyEBT>

### **9.3 IGU Regional Conference, Kyoto, Japan, August 2013**

The announcement has been made for the IGU Regional Conference will be held at Kyoto, Japan, in 2013.

**Date:** August 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Venue:** Kyoto International Conference Centre, Kyoto, Japan.

**Theme:** 'Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future'.

It is planned that the conference will include Commission and task force presentations and papers between August 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be Post-Conference Fieldtrips from August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please check the IGU website for further information.

## 10. Other Geography Symposia and Conferences of Interest

A number of conference on subjects related and relevant to geography and geographical education are taking place in the near future.

### 10.1 Spatial Thinking and Geographic Information Sciences Conference, Tokyo, Japan, September 2011

**Date:** September 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Venue:** University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.

**Theme:** 'Spatial Thinking and Geographic Information Sciences'.

**Website:** <http://curricula.csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/stgis2011/>

This international conference is being organized by a team that is involved in a research project on GISc education and spatial thinking (GIScEST Project). The project deals with education curricula focused on Geographic Information Sciences and the development of spatial thinking through GISc education. This will be a joint conference with Spatial Simulation for the Social Sciences (S4). We hope to share our findings and world-leading research from our contributors with participants from all over the world.

The call for papers deadline is December 15, 2010. Please find additional information available on the website.

Professor Sarah Witham Bednarz  
Texas A&M University

### 10.2 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on 'Contemporary Trends in Teaching and Learning Geography', September, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2011

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium is being held to promote best practice in teaching and learning in geography. Its focus is on sharing best practice experience to promote active learning, analyzing features of teaching and learning focused on the development of critical thinking abilities. The Symposium is aimed at practitioners and researchers in and of school and higher education teaching and learning in geography.

**Date:** September 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Venue:** Faculty of Geography, 5-7 Clinicilor Street, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.  
Cluj-Napoca can be reached by plane.

**Theme:** 'Contemporary Trends in Teaching and Learning Geography'

There are ten topic sessions within the Symposium, which covers school and higher education geography teaching and learning.

A draft programme is available on the website.

#### **Paper submissions:**

Information on submitting papers can be found on the website.

Abstracts should be submitted to: [didacticageografie@yahoo.com](mailto:didacticageografie@yahoo.com).

Refereed papers will be published in June 2012.

**Languages:** Romanian and English.

**Key dates:**

Registration is open from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.  
The Symposium fee is 150 Euros, to be paid by September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Website:** [www.rigeo.org/contemporary-trends-in-teaching-and-learning-geography.html](http://www.rigeo.org/contemporary-trends-in-teaching-and-learning-geography.html).

### **10.3 Bilingual Teaching: Regional Geography and English Integration Workshop, Poland, October 2011**

**Date:** October 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Venue:** Torun, Poland

**Website:** For further information contact the Workshop organizers through:  
[marcin.stark@sop.torun.pl](mailto:marcin.stark@sop.torun.pl)

Final date for Registration is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Go to the above email address for information about registration.

### **10.4 NAAEE Conference, North Carolina, USA, October 2011**

**Date:** October 2011

**Venue:** Durham, North Carolina, USA

**Website:** For further information see the NAAEE website: [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org)

### **10.5 International Symposium on Competencies of Global Citizens, Helsinki, Finland, October 2011**

**Date:** October 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Venue:** Hanasaari – The Swedish Cultural Centre – Helsinki, Finland

**Website:** For further information see the Symposium website at: [www.gene.eu](http://www.gene.eu)

The Symposium is organized by the Finnish National Board of Education in cooperation with GENE - Global Education Network Europe; the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland; and Hanasaari - the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre. There are places for 100 participants.

The Symposium addresses three key issues:

- What is global education?
- What are the key competencies of global citizens in general education?
- How can priorities for global education be nationally identified?

The deadline for Registration is September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.  
Go to: <http://asp.bdb.fi/hanaholmen/q?pk=932-567-402>

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## 10.6 Geographical Association Annual Conference and Exhibition, Manchester, UK, April 2012

You are very welcome to the Geographical Association's Annual Conference in Manchester in 2012.

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> April, 2012

**Venue:** University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

**Theme:** 'Geographies of Difference'

**Website:** [www.geography.org.uk/conference](http://www.geography.org.uk/conference)

GA members get discounted registration rates. Did you know that international membership of the GA is very cheap. Look for '**concessionary rates**' on [www.geography.org.uk/login\\_join.asp](http://www.geography.org.uk/login_join.asp)

Dr Fran Martin is the presiding President for the Conference as President of the Geographical Association during 2011-12. She takes up office on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. She writes:

In 2012 the GA's Annual Conference will return to the University of Manchester. The theme for this year's event will be 'Geographies of difference'. Let me explain why I have chosen this theme, and what I hope the conference will enable us to explore.

When I was an impressionable 19 year-old, I travelled to South Africa with my grandparents, spending a week in Cape Town and two weeks in Pretoria. This visit (in 1975) was some time before the apartheid regime was overthrown, and was my first real encounter with injustice. I was shocked by it.

This experience certainly informed my activity as an advisory teacher for primary humanities in the late 1980s. I helped to run courses on values and attitudes. I thought it important to challenge common myths and misconceptions held about minority ethnic groups. I have to say I was shocked by some of the attitudes towards difference that I encountered.

These remain hugely important issues. Danny Dorling, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Sheffield, says that if he had to sum up the current state of the world in one word, 'injustice' would probably do it. Geography is extremely well placed to make a significant contribution to education partly because it helps develop our understanding of difference, diversity – and injustice.

I hope that the 2012 Annual Conference will provide the space to explore the geographies of difference in three key ways:

- By providing a range of examples of how geography education can develop more positive attitudes towards difference in our young people.
- By reflecting on the extent to which geography as a discipline, or community of practice, reflects the diversity of the UK.
- By providing some concrete, positive and inspiring ideas that can be taken back to our places of work and put into practice.

As the most recent Ofsted report for geography in England (2011) makes clear in its title (using the words of the late former GA president Rex Walford), geography has the potential to make 'a world of difference'. I look forward to seeing you all there and working together towards this goal.

Further information will be available via the Geographical Association's website: [www.geography.org.uk](http://www.geography.org.uk).

## 10.7 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, New York City, 2012

The AAG welcomes presentations from scholars, professionals, and students interested in the advancement of geography. More than 7,000 geographers are expected to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting in New York City.

The AAG Annual Meeting is an open forum where all submissions are accepted for presentation. Several distinguished speakers will be on the program, including Jeffrey Sachs, Robert Groves, Salil Shetty, Nickolas Kristof, and Frances Fox Piven.

The AAG encourages attendees to participate in thematically-organized paper and panel sessions at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Among these will be organized sessions on the following themes:

- GIScience, Cyberinfrastructure, and Social Media
- Contributions of Physical Geography to Sustainable Development
- Social Justice, Media, and Human Rights
- International Finance and Economics
- Geography and the Humanities
- The United Nations
- Careers in Geography.

Abstract and session submission for the 2012 AAG Annual Meeting will run through to September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. For up to the minute news about the conference, visit the AAG Annual Meeting page at <http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>.

## 10.8 Eurogeo Course, Dublin, June, 2012

EUROGEO will hold a FREE iGuess course on Spatial Thinking and GIS in June 2012 in Dublin.

**Date:** June, 2012

**Venue:** Dublin, Republic of Ireland

**Theme:** Spatial Thinking

**Website:** Details at: <http://www.eurogeography.eu/iguess-dublin-2012.htm>

European teachers, teacher educators and academics can apply for a grant from their Comenius National Agency to cover their costs to attend. The deadline for the grant application is January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Karl Donert  
President, EUROGEO  
[euorgeomail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:euorgeomail@yahoo.co.uk)

Keep in touch with EUROGEO at [www.eurogeography.eu](http://www.eurogeography.eu)

Also on LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

EUROGEO is on Facebook, [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_194359357259031](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_194359357259031)

The GeoCube promoting Geography can be found at [www.geo-cube.eu](http://www.geo-cube.eu)

## 10.9 Space, Place and Social Justice Seminar

**Date:** July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Venue:** the Education and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

**Theme:** Space, Place and Social Justice

Sue Bermingham is working with Professor Helen Colley, and Geoff Bright (Ethnographer), facilitating a one day seminar on *Space, Place and Social Justice* on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. It focuses on opening the dialogue between Geographers, Geography Educationalists, Educationalists and Ethnographers. Further information, registering an interest and being kept up-to-date can be obtained by contacting Geoff Bright at [G.Bright@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:G.Bright@mmu.ac.uk).

## **11. Conference Reports**

### **11.1 Publication of the Proceedings of the IGU CGE Symposium held in Istanbul, Turkey, July 2010.**

**Title:** *Building Bridges between Cultures through Geographical Education, the Proceedings of the IGU-CGE Istanbul Symposium, July 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.*

**Editors:** Ali Demirci, Lex Chalmers, Yilmaz Ari and John Lidstone.

The Proceedings have been published and are available on the Symposium webpage [<http://igucge2010.fatih.edu.tr>]. and can be found on the IGU CGE website [<http://www.igu-cge.org>].

Dr Ali Demirci,  
Department of Geography,  
Fatih University, Istanbul.

## **12. Research Developments Internationally**

### **12.1 *Place pedagogies and learning landscapes* Project**

Dr Inger Birkeland writes:

*“Place pedagogies and learning landscapes”* is a multi-disciplinary and international research project that aims to investigate how place pedagogies can enable better learning in early childhood and primary education. Place pedagogies refer to place-conscious and place-responsive education. Place pedagogies seek to better connect children’s learning and development to the places and communities where they live through teaching and learning that directly involves those local places and communities. It is one of many approaches that meet the aims of education for sustainable development (EfSD).

The relevance of place pedagogies is twofold. It facilitates, firstly, better learning by identifying the real and contextual factors and those environments that influence teaching and learning. Secondly, it facilitates more relevant learning by addressing the role of teaching and learning in early childhood and primary education in the age of globalization so that education can have a direct bearing on the health and wellbeing of children and those places where they actually live.

To enable better learning, a context-sensitive approach has been developed based in place-based landscape analysis. Landscapes play a vital role in children’s learning and development because they form part of their identity and sense of place. We develop the concept learning landscape to foster theoretical and scientific renewal for education research and greater quality of teaching and learning in education for sustainable development. For us, the learning landscape describes the potential possibilities for local concretization of a national curriculum that takes outset in multi-method mapping of four layers of landscape: the physical, the ecological, the cultural and the social landscapes.

Based in a case study research design, eight cases are developed in different locations in Norway, Finland and Australia in order to explore the learning landscape as an authentic learning environment. Case studies are starting up in collaboration with teachers at selected local schools and kindergartens in 2011 with national funding in the respective countries. The research project will be completed in 2014.

A synthesis of main findings and experiences of the cases will constitute the basis for reflections on global perspectives on EfSD. This will be developed through activities in a global research network for place and sustainability education led by professor Margaret Somerville (Australia).

### **Project group**

Dr. Inger Birkeland, Telemark University College (project leader, Norway)

Dr. Ingunn Fjørtoft, Telemark University College (Norway)

Professor Margaret Somerville, Monash University (Australia)

Dr. Arne N. Jordet, Hedmark University College (Norway)

Dr. Arja Sääkslahti, University of Jyväskylä (Finland)

Professor Kine Halvorsen Thoren, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway)

## **12.2 GIS in education**

In the past decade, more and more geography teachers, teacher trainers, and scientists in the field of geography education have become interested in the possibilities of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for teaching and learning geography. Tim Favier reports on the results of a PhD study on GIS in secondary geography education. The PhD study aimed to develop a theoretical framework for GIS-supported inquiry-based geography education, and to explore how optimal GIS-supported inquiry-based geography education can be realized in practice. Tim Favier (VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands; [t.t.favier@vu.nl](mailto:t.t.favier@vu.nl)) will defend his dissertation on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The title of his research report is *Geographic Information Systems in inquiry-based secondary geography education*.

Joop van der Schee

## **12.3 The Ludwigsburg-Lucerne Bibliography on Conceptual Change Research in the Geosciences - A Project to Establish a Comprehensive Collection of International Research Papers in the Field.**

In 2005 Dr. Stephan Schuler and Prof. Dr. Sibylle Reinfried started to compile a bibliography on research about alternative conceptions in geography and the geosciences. Scholars or PhD students that are doing or planning conceptual change research can download the bibliography which is categorized in English and has recently been updated from <http://www.ph-ludwigsburg.de/lbfg.html>.

A published paper that describes the structure of the bibliography and the research areas that are well represented or not yet well researched can also be downloaded from the website mentioned above:

Reinfried, S. & Schuler, S. (2009): Die Ludwigsburg-Luzerner Bibliographie zur Alltagsvorstellungsforschung in den Geowissenschaften – ein Projekt zur Erfassung der internationalen Forschungsliteratur. In: *Geographie und ihre Didaktik*, 37. Jg., H. 3, S. 120-135

Prof. Dr. Sibylle Reinfried  
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Tel.: +41 (0)44 382 27 87  
<http://www.sibylle-reinfried.ch>



## 12.4 Making My Place in the World

Sue Bermingham, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, is working with John Lyon (Geographical Association) on a Paul Hamlyn Funded Project, *Making My Place in the World*. They are working with 4 schools, 2 in Manchester and 2 in Sheffield, as community geographers for the academic year 2011-12. This is a speaking and listening project working with ten Year 10 (14-15 year old) pupils in each school.

## 13. Curriculum and Teaching Developments

During the past couple of years debates about geography's presence in national curricula have been going on several countries, for instance Italy and Australia. This is also occurring in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, two countries where geography has been thought to have a secure place in the curriculum for 5 to 16 year olds over the past twenty years. See sections 10.1 and 10.2 below.

### 13.1 Primary and Secondary National Curriculum developments in England

In England the National Curriculum is under review, with a focus on both determining which subjects should be compulsory in the school curriculum for 5 to 16 year olds, and deciding what the 'content' of the subject curricula should be. At the time of writing it is still not known whether geography will be one of the compulsory subjects, nor for which age ranges. However, the Geographical Association and the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers have been lobbying hard over the past year making the case very strongly for geography. The government's decision to introduce a E-Baccalaureate (E for English) in its 16+ examination, the GCSE, that covers the following subjects has given some hope that geography may be positively considered by the government: English, mathematics, science, physical education, a modern language, and geography or history.

***Professor David Lambert, Chief Executive of the Geographical Association, UK, writes:***

The Geographical Association has responded to the UK government's National Curriculum Review (for England) by launching a **geography curriculum consultation** of its own. This will provide feedback and evidence in order to contribute to the official NCR for geography in 2012. The consultation is a response to the government's intention to reform the National Curriculum to focus on 'core' or 'essential knowledge' of traditional subjects. See what you think.

Please give us your feedback at:

[www.geography.org.uk/getinvolved/geographycurriculumconsultation](http://www.geography.org.uk/getinvolved/geographycurriculumconsultation)

The deadline for responses to the Geographical Association is Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

### 13.2 Geography curriculum in Ireland

Currently in Ireland Geography is part of the core curriculum for almost all students from the start of primary school until the end of the lower secondary programme (ages 4+ to 15 years). It is not compulsory for upper secondary but it is the second most popular optional subject at that level. If current proposals to reform the programme are accepted this is unlikely to be the case. The new Junior Cycle curriculum (lower secondary) will include a compulsory core of Irish, English, Maths and Science only. These will be formally assessed – probably as at present by terminal examinations. Apart from these, schools will be encouraged to develop their own programmes based on 'learning areas', one of which is Social Education, where geography (or aspects of the subject) would be located. Since History and Civic, Social and Political Studies would also be included within Social Education, there are good reasons to suppose that in some schools the choice might be made to adopt a programme in which geography was no longer identified clearly

and where the core aspects of the subject would no longer be clear to students or even presented to them at all. In effect some students would cease to study geography in a meaningful way at the age of 12 years (or at all), when they leave primary school.

The geography community in Ireland is very anxious about this potential damage to the education of students at a time when it is becoming increasingly obvious that Ireland and the world needs concerned, involved, and environmentally educated citizens who have relevant knowledge to draw on and a broad skill set – all of which aspects are developed by the study of geography. A campaign is underway to alert those in authority to the serious effects of this downgrading of the importance of geography. To find out more about the issues and how you can help the campaign, for example by contacting relevant bodies to draw their attention to the issues which would arise from the loss of a definite place for geography in secondary schools please visit the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland website at <http://www.agti.ie>. The Irish geography community would welcome all support at this time.

A proforma letter for you to copy, complete and send is attached in **Appendix B** at the end of this Newsletter. It can be found, as well, on the AGTA website (see above). It would be helpful, if you make a submission, to add to the letter points about your personal involvement in education and the importance of geography in the school curriculum for all children, wherever they are in the World.

Shelagh Waddington

### **13.3 Geo-media Project: Digital-earth, Paris Lodron University, Salzburg, Austria**

Paris Lodron University Salzburg, Austria has started its new international geo-media project, called [digital-earth.eu](http://digital-earth.eu). This is a unique collaboration with a wide range of organizations from across Europe. Involved are some of the most important experts in the use of geo-technologies and geographical media in education, together with specialists in the training of teachers. The goal is to connect these experts through the formation of a European Centre of Excellence so they can share and promote innovative practices and influence decision makers of the importance of these developments. This network of accredited national and regional experts, endorsed by European associations, will act as multipliers, working with teachers and educators in their own countries. The Centre will be based at the Austrian Centre of Excellence, digital:earth:at, founded in Salzburg in 2009. The full story is available at: <http://bit.ly/otWvQa>

To find out more about the project, go to: <http://www.digital-earth.eu> and [www.eurogeography.eu/digital-earth.html](http://www.eurogeography.eu/digital-earth.html)

Karl Donert

Follow me on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/karldonert](http://www.twitter.com/karldonert)

### **13.4 Professional development for secondary school geographers in Singapore**

Margaret Roberts, from the UK, was invited by the Singapore Government Ministry of Education to run professional development courses for secondary school geography teachers in Singapore this past year. She has run six courses in May and June 2011 and will be running four more in November 2011.

It is interesting to reflect that at a time when the British Government is reassessing and reconstructing the English primary and secondary school curriculum, calling as it has on the achievements of high quality education programmes in other parts of the World, that another nation clearly considers that there is still much that can be gained by involving top quality British geography educators in their professional development activities.

### 13.5 Spanish versions of Center for Global Geography Education modules

The AAG's Center for Global Geography Education project offers six online modules on the following topics: *National Identity, Migration, Population and Natural Resources, Global Climate Change, Water Resources, and Global Economy*. Each module was written collaboratively by geographers from different countries and consists of regional case studies and international collaborative projects for undergraduate instruction. Complete Spanish versions of the modules (in addition to the existing English versions) will be available by the end of September, 2011, at <http://globalgeography.aag.org>.

## 14. Recent Publications

Do you have or know of a new book on geographical education, environmental education or social studies education? If you do, please let the editor of our journal, IRGEE, know. She can arrange for a review and this will help to make colleagues around the world aware of the book.

Dr Gillian Kidman, reviews editor for *IRGEE*, requests authors of new publications to send a copy to her for review. Any publication, in any language, can be sent to her at:

Dr Gillian Kidman,  
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MSTE, Faculty of Education,  
Kelvin Grove Campus,  
Queensland University of Technology,  
Kelvin Grove,  
Brisbane,  
QLD 4059  
Australia.

### 14.1 New and recent English language Book publications

Best, B. (2011) *The Geography Teacher's Handbook*. London: Continuum.

Featherstone, S. (2010) *The Little Book of Explorations*. London: A & C Black.

Gadsby, H. & Bullivant, A. (eds.) (2010) *Global Learning and Sustainable Development*. London: David Fulton.

Morgan, J. (2011) *Teaching Secondary Geography as if the Planet Matters*. London: David Fulton.

Stuurman, V. (2011) *Creating a Culture of Teaching and Learning in the Classroom: A Case Study in a geography Classroom*. Saarbrücken: Lambert Academic Publishing.

Zarillo, J. (2011, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) *Teaching Elementary Social Studies: Principles and Applications*. Boston: Pearson

Bandrova, T., Nunez, J., Konecny, M. & Atwal, J. (eds.) (2010) *Children Map the World 2*. Redlands: ESRI Press.

Buckingham, D. & Tingstad, V. (eds.) (2010) *Childhood and Consumer Culture*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Cutter-Mackenzie, A., Payne, P. & Reid, A. Eds.) (2011) *Experiencing Environment and Place through Children's Literature*. London: Routledge.

Ensor, M. & Gozdziaik, E. (eds.) (2010) *Children and Migration*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Loire, C., Carpa-Mendez, F., Tyrrell, N. & White, A. (2011) *Childhood and Migration in Europe*. Farnham: Ashgate.

Sobel, D. (2011) *Wild Play: Parenting Adventure in the Great Outdoors*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.

*Geography Plus: Primary Teachers' Toolkit*, Series Editors: Paula Owens and Paula Richardson.

Published by The Geographical Association, U.K.

40 pages plus online materials for Key Stages 1 and 2 (Years 1-6, 5-11 year old children). The series is published during 2011-2012.

Each book is priced at £10.99 for GA members and £15.99 non-members. They are available from the Geographical Association. See the GA link page for details: [http://www.geography.org.uk/shop/shop\\_detail.asp?ID=682&section=2](http://www.geography.org.uk/shop/shop_detail.asp?ID=682&section=2) and [http://www.geography.org.uk/shop/shop\\_detail.asp?ID=684&section=2](http://www.geography.org.uk/shop/shop_detail.asp?ID=684&section=2).

Owens, P. (2011) *Little Blue Planet: Investigating spaceship Earth*, Geographical Association

Scoffham, S. & Whyte, T. (2011) *The UK: Investigating who we are*, Geographical Association

Witt, S. & Morley, E. (2011), *Neighbourhood Watch!: Investigating the world on our doorstep*, Geographical Association

North, W. & Hamblen, A. (2011) *Australia Here We Come! Exploring a distant place*, Geographical Association

## 14.2 Non-English language Book publications

None received.

## 14.3 Forthcoming publications

Milson, A., Demirici, A. & Kerski, J. (2011) *International Perspectives on Teaching and Learning with GIS in Secondary Schools*, Springer (published in October 2011). Information can be viewed at:

<http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/science+education/book/978-94-007-2119-7>

*Geography Plus: Primary Teachers' Toolkit*, Series Editors: Paula Owens and Paula Richardson  
Richardson, P. & Richardson, T. (2012) *Living in the Freezer: Investigating polar environments*, Geographical Association

Parsons, S. & Foley, M. (2012) *Food for Thought: Investigating where our food comes from*, Geographical Association

Bowden, D. & Copekand, P. (2012) *Green Futures: Investigating why rainforests matter*, Geographical Association

Seal, N. & Ambrose, L. (2012) *Beside the Sea*, Geographical Association

Please keep sending details of new publications to me. It helps for us all to know what is being published across the World in geographical education and related areas of study. Information on publications in all languages are welcome.

## 15. Journals

### 15.1 Review of International Geographical Education Online [RIGEO]

The second issue of **RIGEO** [ISSN: 2146-0353] is in preparation. It is due for publication in October 2012.

RIGEO is a scholarly open access, peer-reviewed and fully refereed journal focusing on theories, methods and applications in the all aspects of Geography Education. You can find out more about this e-journal at <http://www.rigeo.org>.

We encourage you not only to read the articles in RIGEO but to consider submitting your own work, and encouraging your research students to submit their work for possible publication in this new journal. To submit articles for consideration or to receive further information and to send your recommendations, please contact us at [eartvinli@gmail.com](mailto:eartvinli@gmail.com).

## **RIGEO continues to invite qualified researchers to be reviewers for its articles**

Review of International Geographical Education Online (RIGEO) is seeking qualified researchers as reviewers on the “Referee Advisory Board”. RIGEO will serve as an important resource for geography educators, researchers and students across the globe. We ask you to support this initiative by joining our team. If you are interested in serving as a member of the “Referee Advisory Board”, kindly send us your resume to [eartvinli@gmail.com](mailto:eartvinli@gmail.com).

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## **16. Other News**

### **16.1 International Charter on Geographical Education**

The "International Charter on Geographical Education", published in 1992, is electronically available on the IGU-CGE website in 22 languages as PDF-files for you to download.

Prof. Joop van der Schee

### **16.2 Geography resources available**

Over 650 geography videos, including different landscapes, cultures, demos on how to use GIS in education, and discussions on themes such as scale and geography education, are now on:  
<http://www.youtube.com/geographyuberalles>

Three new postings each week on how to use easy and powerful web GIS techniques and data in the classroom are on the Esri EdCommunity blog:  
<http://edcommunity.esri.com/blog>

Making Spatial Decisions Using GIS – new workbook for educators now available, book by Kolvoord and Keranen:  
<http://www.esri.com/news/releases/11-3qtr/new-esri-course-book-emphasizes-real-world-lessons.html>

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### **16.3 EUROGEO**

EUROGEO is the European Association of Geographers. The organisation connects geographers internationally with each other. Members are individual geographers as well as national institutions like KNAG (Royal Dutch Geographical Society-NL) and VLA ( Association of Geography Teachers –B). Members are teachers in secondary education, teacher training colleges, higher education and universities. EUROGEO is a platform for geographers that highly value internationalisation and international collaboration.

Through the website of the association [www.eurogeography.eu](http://www.eurogeography.eu) many activities are published in relation to geography: courses, conferences, European educational projects, the own yearly

meeting for members, the online journal EJG "European Journal of Geography" and more. Bi-annually EUROGEO organises a large international conference somewhere in Europe. In 2012 the yearly meeting is in Cologne, in 2013 the bi-annual conference is in Bruges. Members of EUROGEO are also the creators and makers of [www.geo-cube.eu](http://www.geo-cube.eu), a "canon" of the geography for the European citizen. This online-tool illustrates in an attractive way all aspects of geography. All activities of EUROGEO are focussed to promote geography in all its dimensions and to put it on the agenda in Europe. Through the website one can enrol as member.

The board of EUROGEO is formed by an international group of geographers from England, Ireland, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Belgium and The Netherlands. On behalf of KNAG Dr Harry Rogge, MA, is member as well as member of the board (Secretary-General). Harry Rogge is head of Maerlant College, Brielle. On behalf of VLA lic. Luc Zwartjes is member and also member of the board (treasurer). Luc Zwartjes is president of VLA, teacher trainer and geography teacher at St. Lodewijks College in Bruges. Gert Ruepert, geography teacher at Udens College in Uden is co-opted member of the Board and represents the young geographers. Gert is former board member of EGEA, [www.egea.eu](http://www.egea.eu).

Recently EUROGEO acquired an important position at the Council of Europe. In June Harry Rogge was elected Vice Chair of the Commission Education and Culture of the Conference of INGO's. This Conference of INGO's (International Non Governmental Organisations) represents more than 400 European associations en confers twice a year in Strasbourg. 48 countries are member of the Council of Europe., [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int), of which the Conference of INGO's is a special body. Through the Council of Europe EUROGEO and geography can get a strong lobby in Europe. Interesting to note is that the second Vice Chair of the commission mentioned above is a historian. Prof. Dr. Yosanne Vella of the University of Malta represents Euroclio, the European Association of History Educators [www.euroclio.eu](http://www.euroclio.eu). Through this an interesting opportunity of cooperation between geographers and historians is made possible. The education specialist Mrs. Sabine Rohmann is chair of the commission.

Harry Rogge, Secretary General, EUROGEO, July 2011.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Geography Education Topic Sessions at the IGU Congress, Cologne, August , 2012.**

#### **C08.11 Geographical Education**

##### **Session: State of the Art in Geography Education**

**Chair(s):** Simon Catling & Alexandra Budke

***Abstract:***

Geography education carries the footprint of its specific national context. \*The International Charter on Geographical Education\* outlines the common core of our subject, but the subject is evolving. There is much change in geography education taking place at national levels around the World at the present time. Alongside the results of the international study of geography education started in 2010, and aiming to map the State of the Art in Geographical Education around the World, papers presenting national initiatives, developments, challenges and achievements are invited. Topics might include: changes to national geography education guidance and curricula; what is the range of geography and what is regarded as most important in a national geography curriculum; ways in which geographical themes, such as the nature-society relationship or the implementation of approaches in new cultural geography, are being incorporated into national geography; the different focuses and contexts of geography curricula for different age groups (pre-school, elementary and secondary) at school and for non-examination and examination classes; and innovative approaches for teaching geography that are discussed in the different national contexts.

##### **Session: Students' Interests of Geographical Topics, Regions, and Methods**

**Chair(s):** Gabriele Obermaier & Sirpa Tani

**Abstract:**

We want to start an international research group about student's interests (topics and regions) in geography and geoscience. Our hypothesis is that there are similarities in student's interests about topics (e.g. natural hazards) but not about regions. If you have already done some research about student's interests or are interested in the topic please join us with a poster.

##### **Session: Preconceptions in Geography and Geography Education**

**Chair(s):** Fernando Alexandro & Sibylle Reinfried

***Abstract:***

In recent years research about preconceptions and conceptual change regarding geographical concepts and the school subject of geography have gained momentum in geographical education. This trend is of great importance to geographical education because learners' preconceptions about geographical concepts and processes as well as

teachers' preconceptions about geography as a school subject are keys and obstacles to geographical learning and teaching. Conceptual change research concerns for example the identification of learners' personal ideas of scientific issues, teachers' ideas regarding the curriculum of geography and epistemological processes while studying geographical issues, strategies of how to change personal ideas, and methodologies that help to make processes of change understandable. In this session high quality research papers that address the issues mentioned above are welcome.

### **Session: Examples of Best Practice in Geography Education and Teacher Preparation**

**Chair(s):** Michael Solem & Christiane Meyer

**Abstract:**

This session will offer international perspectives and examples of effective practice in teacher preparation in geography. Papers in this session should address examples of preparing teachers to become effective educators with geospatial technologies, field instruction, inquiry and problem based learning, among other potential topics. We especially welcome papers based on research in geography teacher preparation.

### **Session: Innovative Learning - New & Traditional Media**

**Chair(s):** Daniela Schmeinck & Joop van der Schee

**Abstract:**

Geography is a discipline in which especially visualisation is the starting point of thinking because geography focuses on what the world looks like as a first step in a learning process to understand the world as it is. Various means of representation thereby help us to look at and understand the world around us. According to this several different media play also an important role in geography education. Traditional teaching materials like e.g. textbooks, atlases, stones and models of river systems, are progressively supplemented by new media such as digital maps and movies, GPS and GIS. This session is beyond showing traditional and new media. It focuses on how traditional and new media can help students at all ages to understand the world. Very welcome are research reports that connect the development of geographical knowledge of primary and secondary school students and the use of traditional and/or new media.

### **Session: Standards, Concepts and Experience**

**Chair(s):** Joseph Stoltman & Armin Rempfler

**Abstract:**

National Standards for school Geography are being introduced in some countries; they are currently guiding the teaching activities in others; while in others there are calls for their abrogation and resistance to their implementation. Standards offer guidance in the selection of content that are intended to strengthen the curriculum and improve assessment practices. However, the discussion regarding whether teaching according to given standards is a good practice. This session offers a platform to discuss features, implementation, experiences, and critiques of standards for school Geography internationally.



## **Session: Education for Sustainable Development & Global Learning**

**Chair(s):** Yvonne Schleicher & Osvaldo Muñiz

### **Abstract:**

“The International Geographical Union Commission on Geographical Education sees the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) 2005-2014 as an opportunity to confirm its commitment to education for sustainable development.” <http://www.igu-cge.org/Charters-pdf/LucerneDeclaration.pdf> The proclamation of a “Declaration on Geographical Education for Sustainable Development” by the IGU CGE in 2007 was followed up by different approaches to integrate the ideas of the declaration in Geography Education. This session is aimed to contribute to the discussion about ESD following the categories of the Lucerne Declaration: A. The Contribution of Geography to Education for Sustainable Development B. The Criteria for Developing Geographical Curricula for Education for Sustainable Development C. The Importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Education for Sustainable Development in Geography. Abstract proposals concerning research about all categories of the Lucerne Declaration and examples of best practice are welcome.

## **Session: Spatial Thinking**

**Chair(s):** Sarah W. Bednarz & Detlef Kanwischer

### **Abstract:**

Spatial thinking, traditionally a subject of interest among cognitive scientists, psychologists, and behavioral geographers, has grown in significance for geography educators with the explosive growth of geospatial technologies and consequent drive to prepare a spatially skilled workforce and citizenry. Defined variously as an amalgam of the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to use concepts of space, tools of representation, and processes of reasoning to structure problems, find answers, and express solutions to these problems (NRC, 2006), spatial thinking is widely acknowledged as a powerful interdisciplinary tool, useful in mathematics, science, and social science disciplines. It has also been identified as a core component of geographic thinking. We invite papers addressing all aspects of spatial thinking, including, but not limited to, submissions addressing the spatiality of various state and national curricula; theoretical considerations on the interpretation of various elements of spatial thinking, such as concepts of space, in the learning process; ways assessments can and do measure spatial skills and thinking processes; the degree to which textbooks, and other instructional materials support and feature spatial thinking; strategies to teach spatial thinking; the relationship between spatial thinking and geospatial technologies; learning progressions to develop spatial literacy; and individual learner characteristics in relation to spatial thinking

## **Session: Risk Education**

**Chair(s):** John Lidstone & Gregor Falk

### **Abstract:**

Nature risks and catastrophes strike our changing world with a growing frequency. In a globalizing world, available information circulated form and to remote spaces has contribute to a growing awareness. This session welcomes papers dealing with the risks

and geography education through topics like causes, effects, processes, strategies, methods, and consequences. Both results or original research and best practice are welcome.

## **Session: Urbanization in Geographical Education**

**Chair(s):** Lex Chalmers & Péter Bagoly-Simó

***Abstract:***

Contested tradition divisions of urban and rural, challenges of a changing urban, rural, urban, or suburban lifestyle, effects of urbanization on people's life at different scales, embodied urbanism, or global interconnectivity through urban structures and flows are some of the topics concerning urban geographers. This session welcomes abstracts dealing with the urban topic from school, university, and practice.

## APPENDIX B

Name  
Address  
Address  
Phone

Date

Ruari Quinn, T.D.  
Minister for Education and Skills  
Department of Education and Skills  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
Ireland

### **Re: Threat to Junior Certificate Geography in the Core Curriculum**

Dear

I understand that the NCCA is due to make its recommendations for Junior Cycle reform and that these recommendations will see Geography removed as a subject from the Core Curriculum at Junior Cycle.

The removal of Geography from the Core Curriculum is a source of extreme concern and one that would be severely detrimental to Irish education in general. It would negatively impact on the education and skill set of young Irish people.

- Geography is the *only* synthesising subject in education in Ireland. It is the only subject which ties together students' learning across the curriculum.
- Geography is the *only* school subject concerned with developing students understanding of the spatial distribution of social, economic, physical and environmental phenomena.
- Geography is the *only* school subject to simultaneously develop student literacy, numeracy, graphicacy and problem solving skills and is therefore vital in improving standards in these skills.
- Most multinational companies and State organisations depend on employees having good geographical skills and knowledge. The attractiveness of the Irish workforce would be diminished by the removal of geography from the Junior Cycle core curriculum.
- The removal of geography from the core curriculum would set Irish education back decades at a time when several countries are re-introducing the subject in their junior curricula.

I urge you to use your influence to help ensure that single-subject geography remains firmly within the core curriculum of the Junior Cycle.

Yours sincerely,

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Name