



**IGC**  
**COLOGNE 2012**  
DOWN TO EARTH

# IGC TODAY 27.08.2012

32ND INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS IN COLOGNE 26 - 30 AUGUST 2012

## DEAR GEOGRAPHERS AND HONOURED GUESTS,



On behalf of the German geographical communities, the University of Cologne and the Local Organising Committee, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 32nd International Geographical Congress in Cologne.



All individuals and institutions involved feel very honoured to have contributed to this extraordinary event. And they feel rewarded by the unprecedented attendance for an IGU congress.

Today will certainly be the most crowded day of our event – hopefully the lines at registration will not be too long. But once this checkpoint is behind you, the remaining days are sure to flow smoothly. Sure, the construction sites are less pleasant to look at. But during these times of financial squeeze in the educational sector, our University community is happy to see the long-awaited refurbishments progress – any delay at this point would cause new financial risks.

We have strived to ensure accessibility for geographers of all ages and from the global South and North. And we hope we have succeeded in making the IGC 2012 a platform for a focused exchange of ideas and a memorable festival of and for Geography. We are also curious to know, of course, if our efforts to complement the traditional backbone of IGC - the Commissions and Task Forces - with broader and boundary-spanning key topics are seen as adding a rewarding new element to the mix.

Enjoy the day and for those who have registered: See you tonight at the Lord Mayor's reception!

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee,

Frauke Kraas and Dietrich Soyez

## GET IN TOUCH

E-Mail to the editorial office  
info@igc2012.org



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**DGfG**

Universität zu Köln



Welcome to Cologne

### Official Opening

## Make Your Voice Heard

“Welcome to Europe, welcome to Germany, welcome to Cologne” – these were the words spoken by Professor Frauke Kraas and Professor Dietrich Soyez, Chairs of the IGC Local Organising Committee, as they welcomed geographers from all around the world to the 32nd IGC in Cologne. The guests had gathered for the opening event at a very special place – the Cologne Philharmonic Hall, located in the heart of Cologne beside the towering Cologne Cathedral.

True to its slogan, “Down to Earth”, the Congress will be taking place at the University of Cologne. As the University's rector Professor Axel Freimuth pointed out, the University is not only one of the oldest and largest in Germany but counts as one of 11 top level research universities in Germany. It is therefore proud to be the official venue of the IGC.

Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Advisor to the President of the European Commission, would like to see the IGC and geographers in general take their work beyond the university halls. The challenges facing humanity demand solutions that require input from the scientific community. “Geographers naturally bring together all the necessary

disciplines needed for the solution-finding process,” says Glover.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, a global advocate of Geography, also welcomed the IGC participants. She talked about how the travels with her father awakened her early interest in Geography. “Humans can only live with nature; they can never control it,” said Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. As Professor Eckart Ehlers explained in his Inaugural Lecture, the footprints left behind by humans are indeed indelible. The age of the Anthropocene is here, placing geographers in their role as bridge-builders between the natural world and society at the forefront.

Professor Ron Abler, President of the IGU, Professor Hans-Rudolf Bork, President of the German Geographical Society and Angela Spizig, Mayor of the City of Cologne, also gave welcome addresses. True to the occasion, the musical performances by the Symphonic Orchestra, Bigband and Choir of St. Ursula-Gymnasium Brühl all had to do with Geography. The crowd particularly enjoyed the students' renditions of Robert Schuman's “Rhenish”, Ernst Toch's “Geographical Fugue” and Lynn DeShazo's “For the Beauty of the Earth”.

## DATES

**27.08.2012, 11.45 Uhr:**  
**Keynote-lecture “Society and Environment“:**

Klaus Töpfer  
“On the way to the Anthropocene. Consequences for scientific research, societal understanding and political responsibility“

Anne Buttner  
“Diverse perspectives on society and environment: retrospect and prospect“

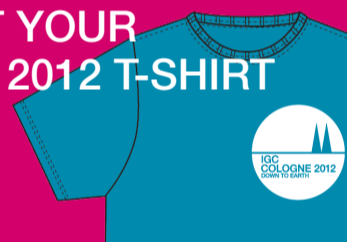
The Keynote-lecture will take place in MAIN 13 and will be broadcasted live in KEY 7 if the maximum occupancy is exceeded.

## LAST MINUTE CHANGE

**FIELD TRIP HD 01: From Rome to Prussia...**

New meeting point: the horse-shoe shaped „Rundbau of Institute of Geography – Zülpicher Str. 41“ (cf. map on p. 291 of the programme)

**GET YOUR IGC 2012 T-SHIRT**

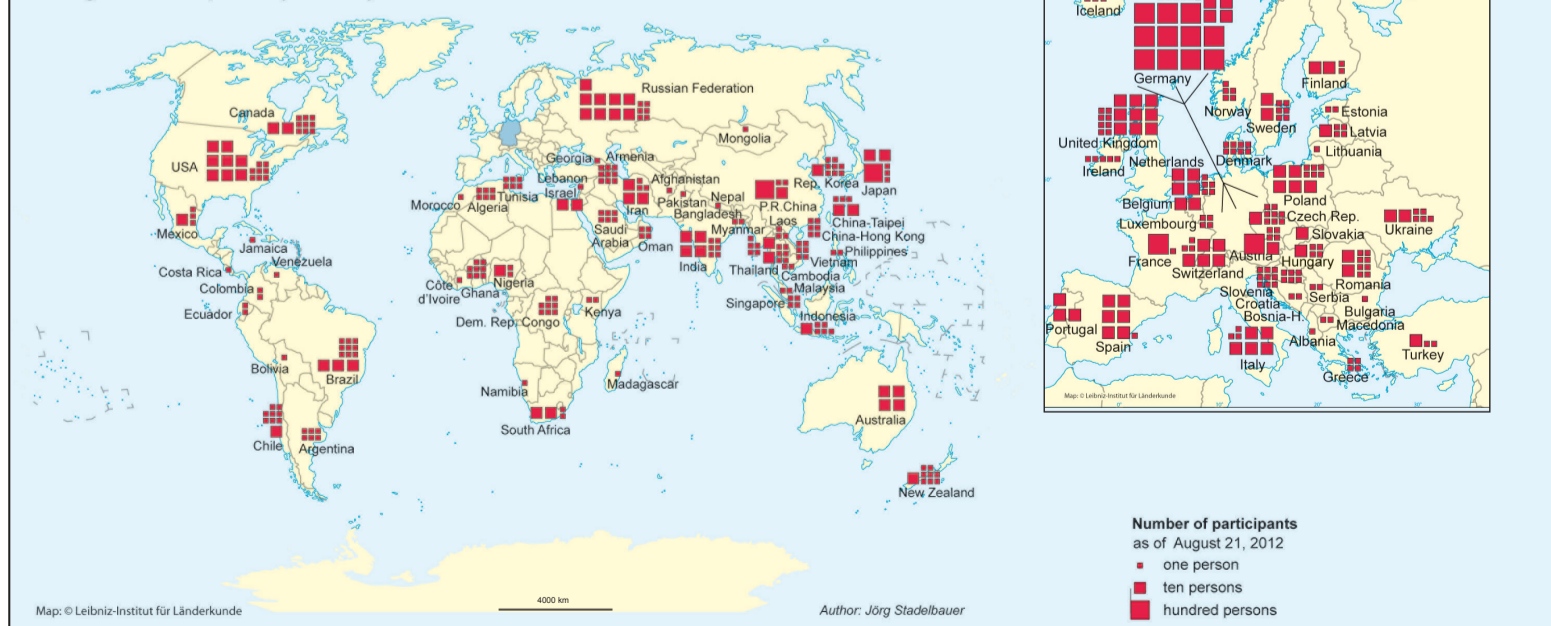


**AND YOUR IGC 2012 MUG.**



Both are available at the Booth of the German Geographic Society (DGfG) in the marquee.

32nd International Geographical Congress, Cologne (Germany) 2012  
Origin of Participants by Country



Registered participants by country of residence

## INTERVIEW

EDITH MUKAKAYUMBA, PH.D.  
PRÉSIDENTE  
MAISON DE LA GÉOGRAPHIE  
DE MONTRÉAL



Je suis devenue géographe parce que mon pays d'origine, le Rwanda, de concert avec mon pays d'adoption, le Canada, qui a donné la bourse d'études grâce à laquelle j'ai poursuivi mes études de deuxième cycle en géographie,

a décidé de mon orientation. Et maintenant que je suis géographe depuis quelque temps, les choses plus importantes sont : assumer mon identité de géographe et réaffirmer sa valeur dans une société où elle est malmenée; poursuivre mon travail d'information et de formation des citoyens responsables, notamment grâce aux méthodes pédagogiques qui privilégient la proximité (via les cafés géographiques par exemple); promouvoir une géographie qui sert, aussi, à faire la paix et, ainsi, contribuer à la correction et à la prévention des tragédies inhérentes au « somnambulisme téléguidé ».

### TODAY'S SAYING

Organisation is great!  
I've been looking forward  
to meeting all colleagues.  
IGC 2012 is simply great fun!

- Frank Schüssler | Jade University of  
Applied Sciences Oldenburg | Germany -

Jörg Stadelbauer

Berlin 1899:

The Seventh International  
Geographical Congress

A Retrospective on Occasion of the  
32nd IGC, Cologne August 2012

Now available at the desk of



MARQUEE M 02.02

## WEATHER

27.08.2012



22°C, cloudy

## IMPRINT

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## iGEO

# The Geography Olympiad Recognises the World's Best!

**Sylvia Löhrmann, State Minister of Schools and Education, presented 13 gold medals to the winners of the 9th International Geography Olympiad (iGEO).**

A total of 124 high school students from five continents participated in the competition held 21 - 25 August in Cologne, tackling the tests and challenges put in front of them. With 32 nations taking part – from Australia and Mongolia to the People's Republic of China and the UK – this year's iGEO was the largest since its founding in 1996.

### And the winners are.....

Samuel Chua, Singapore; Wojtek Kaczmarczyk, Poland; Stefania Ursică, Romania; Tairvo Pungas, Estonia; Rimgaudas Stundzia, Lithuania; Hana Parízková, Czech Republic; Constantin Popa, Romania; Maris Serzans, Latvia; Max Rogge, Germany; Brendan Tan, Singapore.

### Test of skill and knowledge

The competition consisted of three parts: two written exams to test the knowledge of the pupils and a fieldwork exercise to check up on their practical and methodical skills. Participants were asked to draw maps and develop urban planning scenarios for the inner city's waterfront. Aside from the actual competition, another important aspect of the iGEO is intercultural exchange. The highlight of the Olympiad was the intercultural evening at the Rautenstrauch Joest-Museum, where the participants presented a colourful collaborative performance on stage.

Dorothea Wiktorin

## KEYNOTE "SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT"

# Diverse Perspectives on Society and Environment: Retrospect and Prospect

**Prof. Anne Buttimer speaks about the "root metaphors" of geography and the challenges as they evolve**

Questions about society and environment have always been central concerns for geography (Gaia graphie). In classical times issues of health, cultural identity and political economy were couched in terms of people's relations to their natural surroundings. In later centuries, some European nations claimed cultural superiority on the basis of their "ideal" physical environments, often extending their domains to empires and colonies worldwide. Practices of geography associated with such claims were branded as "environmental determinism" and the mid-20th century witnessed an aggressive attempt to bolster a definition of geography as the study of spatial interactions. A clear separation of human and physical branches followed, as "space" was regarded as a tabula rasa on which processes unfolded following the requisites of economic and technological efficiency. Implications of this new orthodoxy included an eclipse of both historical perspective and environmental concerns.



### Reintegration

Two important counter voices, however, were heard. Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth (R.L.Thomas, ed. 1956) and Traces on the Rhodian Shore (C. Glacken, 1967), re-awakened interest in both landscape transformations and dramatic changes in human perceptions and behaviours vis-à-vis environments over time. Strongly emerging from both was the centrality of livelihoods (ways of life) as a core analytical focus of geographic enquiry. Genres de vie (ways of life, life-ways) offered an integrative approach to the understanding of society and environment on three distinct levels: cognitive (knowledge, perceptions, values), i.e., noosphere, functional (interactions, industry, social organisation),

i.e., socio-technosphere, and organic (relationship to place and local resources), i.e., biosphere. With each of these levels there is an associated challenge of human interest: identity (noosphere), order (socio-technosphere) and niche (biosphere), all three with a varying horizon of time, through past, present and future.

### Getting to the roots Z

This presentation outlines four distinct worlds-views ("root metaphors") which geographers have deployed in their studies of these human interests: world as organic whole, world as mosaic, world as mechanical system, world as arena of spontaneous events. Each "root metaphor" is anchored in its own criteria of truth and results derived from any one of these procedures cannot be evaluated in terms of the criteria of another. Scientific preference for one or other of these stances can be easily related to concurrent political priorities; likewise the demise and replacement of them can also be related to societal judgement.

### Exciting challenges ahead

The conclusion points toward emerging challenges for research on society and environment in Century 21. It highlights the contrasting stances on science and society in terms of those of "Archimedes" (top-down) and "Little Prince" (bottom-up), noting also the need to regard societal interests as changing over time. Recent conceptions of an evolving universe – including its noosphere – as in states of becoming pose especially exciting challenges for Gaia-graphie.

Prof. Anne Buttimer.

## IGC KOMPAKT

### YOUNG RESEARCHERS WORKSHOPS

When the initial planning for the IGC 2012 began, both the Scientific Committee and the junior researchers involved wanted to better integrate younger researchers in the conference.

To this end, a special programme was set up for post-docs, postgraduates and undergraduates with workshops on topics such as managing a PhD thesis, writing and publishing in English, finding funding opportunities and planning a scientific career. A science slam and a special poster competition is also part of the programme.

In the "Careers in Science" workshop on 26 August, three senior professors with bi- and multinational university careers met with 18 postgraduates and post-docs at the World-o-Science-Café and spoke about their own experiences in the field. In both plenary and small-group formats, they engaged the students in an intensive exchange about future prospects and the challenges of international careers in Geography.



Henrik, Undergraduate Student, Germany: "The methods of our seminar were very innovative and motivating – we had a very intensive time and we surely learnt how to best integrate a PhD thesis into the system of our daily life."

Prof. Hervé Théry, France/Brazil: "Going abroad for your PhD or Postdoc studies is a great chance for your career, but also for your personal development. There are many opportunities – for example, Brazil is currently offering about 100.000 grants for outgoing but also for incoming 'young talents'."

Martina, PostDoc, Spain: "It was very motivating to learn which different approaches to a university career exist; it was also good to hear that for publishing, impact factors of journals are often regarded less important than addressing the relevant reader groups: 'publish in the journals you read!'"

A special social programme has also been organised for the younger geographers – and for all those young at heart – by the Cologne Geography Department's student council. Certain to be the highlight is the big party planned for Wednesday!

Harald Sterly

