



IGC  
COLOGNE 2012  
DOWN TO EARTH

# IGC TODAY 30.08.2012

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

## DEAR COLLEAGUES,



More than 2,400 geographers from some 80 countries have gathered for this year's IGC, making for a unique event with an unprecedented turnout. High attendance coupled with the innovative programme offers a wonderful chance to meet and exchange our ideas.

It is particularly important to have participants from Asia, Africa and Latin America, as they are traditionally underrepresented at IGU events. A special meeting, chaired by Prof. Chris Mutambirwa of the University of Zimbabwe, was held August 28th for our 60 IGC delegates from 12 African nations. The objective was to discuss participation in IGU activities as well as issues surrounding the development of Geography in Africa.

Another special session was held August 27th on the ambitious project initiated by the IGU and its former President Adalberto Vallega. The IGU seeks UNESCO's support for the proclamation of the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU). One of its scopes is to better the global visibility of Geography, including research, teaching and the dissemination of knowledge on the ways we inhabit an increasingly globalised world. The project was presented by its coordinator, Prof. Benno Werlen (University of Jena), former IGU President Prof. Bruno Messerli and Prof. John Pickles (University of North Carolina).

The "ordinary" sessions are what lay at the heart of the IGC, of course. With so many interesting events scheduled over the course of the Congress – and often at the same time – it's hard to fit it all in. Our days in Cologne are full – full not only with meetings and presentation but with friendly contacts and enjoyable nights in this exciting city.

Vladimir Kolossov

## IGU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

President: Vladimir Kolossov, Russia  
Vice Presidents: - RB Singh, India  
- Dieter Soye, Germany  
- Joos Droogleeveer-Fortuijn, The Netherlands  
- Jarkko Saarinen, Finland

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E-Mail to the editorial office  
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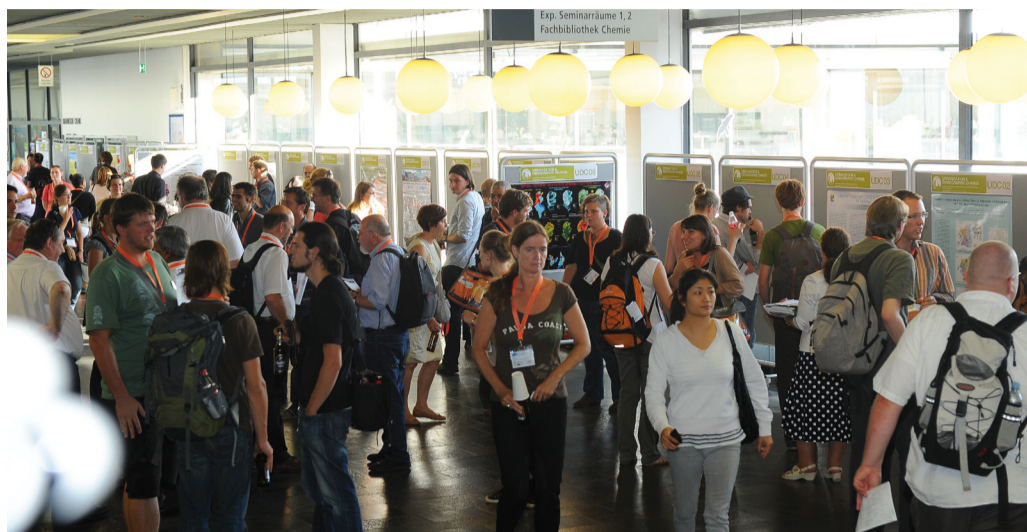
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DGfG



Poster session in the POSTER-building

## POSTER SESSION

### Definitely Worth the Walk

Some 350 attendees "hoofed it" to the other side of campus to view the poster exhibition on Tuesday – and were not disappointed.

By 6 pm on Tuesday, the foyer of the Chemistry building several city blocks away from the rest of the IGC happenings was packed. And buzzing with people – some cradling beers, others taking notes – ambling, mingling, stopping, listening, pointing, asking and explaining. The event was the first of two IGC Poster Sessions, featuring a total of 180 scientific posters on the Congress' four key topics.

#### A winning format

The first round of posters, 80 in all, covered projects in the area "Global Change and Globalisation" and "Urbanisation and Demographic Change". With poster authors on hand to field questions from interested passers-by, the format is the science community's version of the "elevator pitch". Professor Duval Fernandes from Brazil, who busily represented his PhD student's poster "The New Migratory Flow from Haiti to Brazil", is a real advocate of this often downgraded presentation format. "It's a great way to get ideas out there – quickly, personally and with impact," Fernandes said, who had just exchanged cards with a scientist from Peru. "It can also be the beginning of something new."

For the "youngsters" in the field who had their own showing as part of the IGC's Young Researchers' Forum, the session was in most cases a debut. Ana Hoinic, a

student from the University of Bucharest and the youngest participant at just 22, had admittedly been nervous. "I'm at the very beginning of my career, so I'm starting with the most rudimentary form of presentation," Hoinic said. "I'm just hoping for lots of feedback – from professors and people who are already doing real research." Punyatoya Patra, an associate professor from the University of Delhi, who had been hovering interestedly around Hoinic's poster, piped in with a knowing and supportive, "And it's from this stage we grow."

#### Awards

Tuesday's Poster Session ended in an awards ceremony, with the top three presenters in each category receiving an armful of prizes – certificates, congress mugs, t-shirts, gift vouchers, flowers and plenty of applause from fellow scientists. First-timer Ana Hoinic was among the evening's winners, receiving the Young Researchers' Forum Second Prize and some feedback she won't soon forget.

#### Mission accomplished

The goal of the IGC's Poster Session format was two-fold – to stimulate scientific exchange in a relaxed, collegial atmosphere and to give greater prominence to the poster format. Anyone who was there would agree: Mission accomplished.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE POSTER SESSION:

### Global Change and Globalisation

1. Gilles Rixhon et al.  
Dating coastal landforms in central Chile by cosmogenic nuclides: in-situ <sup>10</sup>Be ages of a wave-cut platform and a depositional marine terrace

### Urbanisation and Demographic Change

1. Elzbieta Bilaska-Wodecka et al.  
Electoral aspects of the socio-political variability of big cities in Poland

### Risks and Conflicts

1. Estuning Mei et al.  
Managing evacuation in Ngargomulyo municipalities: An example of the Merapi volcanic crises

### Society and Environment

1. Oana Ionuș et al.  
Landslide-susceptibility analysis, mapping and validation in the Balacita Piedmont (south-west Romania)

## DATES

30.08.2012, 11.45 am:  
Keynote-lecture "Risks and Conflicts":

Stephan Baas  
"Disaster Risk and Crises - Challenges for Food and Nutrition Security"

Derek Gregory  
"Deadly embrace: war, distance and intimacy"

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

GET YOUR  
IGC 2012 T-SHIRT



AND YOUR  
IGC 2012 MUG.



Both are available at the booth of the German Geographical Society (DGfG) in the marquee.

## LAST MINUTE CHANGE

Business Meeting of the Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification

Starts earlier! At 10:00 am in MAIN 02

## SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

### MY DAY AT THE IGC

I liked to visit the university because I want to study there later. I was very impressed by the atmosphere. Did not think that there would be so many people. The speeches were very interesting but sometimes hard to understand. I liked the speech about the Croatia tourism (O. Albolino, University of Naples) the most.

Statement from Nils Hast, pupil of the Gymnasium Gerresheim, Düsseldorf

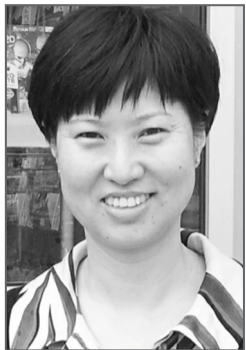
From a pupil's point of view it was very interesting to see the general purpose of events like these. It was impressing how many people from all over the world came together, "only" to discuss geographical matters with likeminded persons. It showed how important it is, to remain in exchange about this topic.

Statement from Bastian Kohler, pupil of the Gymnasium Gerresheim, Düsseldorf

**INTERVIEW**

**DONGYING WEI  
CHAIR OF IGU COMMISSION ON  
GEOPARKS**

**I wanted to be a geographer, because...**



... it was my true interest, from early on. I began studying Geography when I was in middle school and thought it was really interesting. I enjoyed answering questions in class and got very good scores. I went to the School of Geogra-

phy at Beijing Normal University and studied with very good geographers – it was there I realised that Geography also demands hard work if you want to dig deeper and know more.

**What's your most important task as a geographer?**

As a long-time geographer and now in my fourth year as Chair of the Commission on Geoparks, I think one of my most important tasks right now is communicating the role of the Geopark not only as an education tool, but as a site for recreation and nature conservation. The concept of sustainability as applied to Geoparks also needs further developing. Commission member research needs to be better communicated to various academic, industry and policy players in order to influence policy more effectively.

**COMMENT OF THE DAY**

"I wasn't able to travel the world this summer but now the world comes to visit me."

- Angela Klein | Volunteer | 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**  
30.08.2012



**23°C, rainy**

**IMPRINT**

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Albertus-Magnus-Platz www.igc2012.org  
50923 Köln



Congress dinner at the "Gilden im Zims" brewery

**KEYNOTE "RISKS AND CONFLICTS"**

**Deadly embrace: war, distance and intimacy**

It's become commonplace to claim that contemporary wars are fought from a distance: the iconic version is the drone missions flown over Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere from the United States. Yet wars have been waged at a distance throughout history, and we need a surer sense of the historical curve through which military violence has shaped (and been shaped by) the friction of distance. But we also need a sharper calibration of war's geography, including the emergence of new media to convey the theatre of war to distant audiences, changes in military logistics, and extensions to the range of weapons systems. Each of these has its own history and geography,



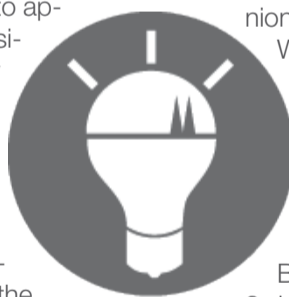
and a series of critical moments can be identified, from the Crimean War through to wars fought in the shadows of 9/11, that brings into closer view the distinctiveness of late modern war. Yet for all these changes the 'death of distance' – and the distance of death – in today's liquid world have been greatly exaggerated: contrary to Friedman's absurdist claim, the world is not flat, even for the US military. The spaces of war have become more complex, punctuated by a developing dialectic between 'here' and 'there', but there remains a stark intimacy to many killing spaces that requires careful reflection.

Derek Gregory

**IGC SPOTLIGHT**

**YOUNG RESEARCHERS POSTERSESSION**

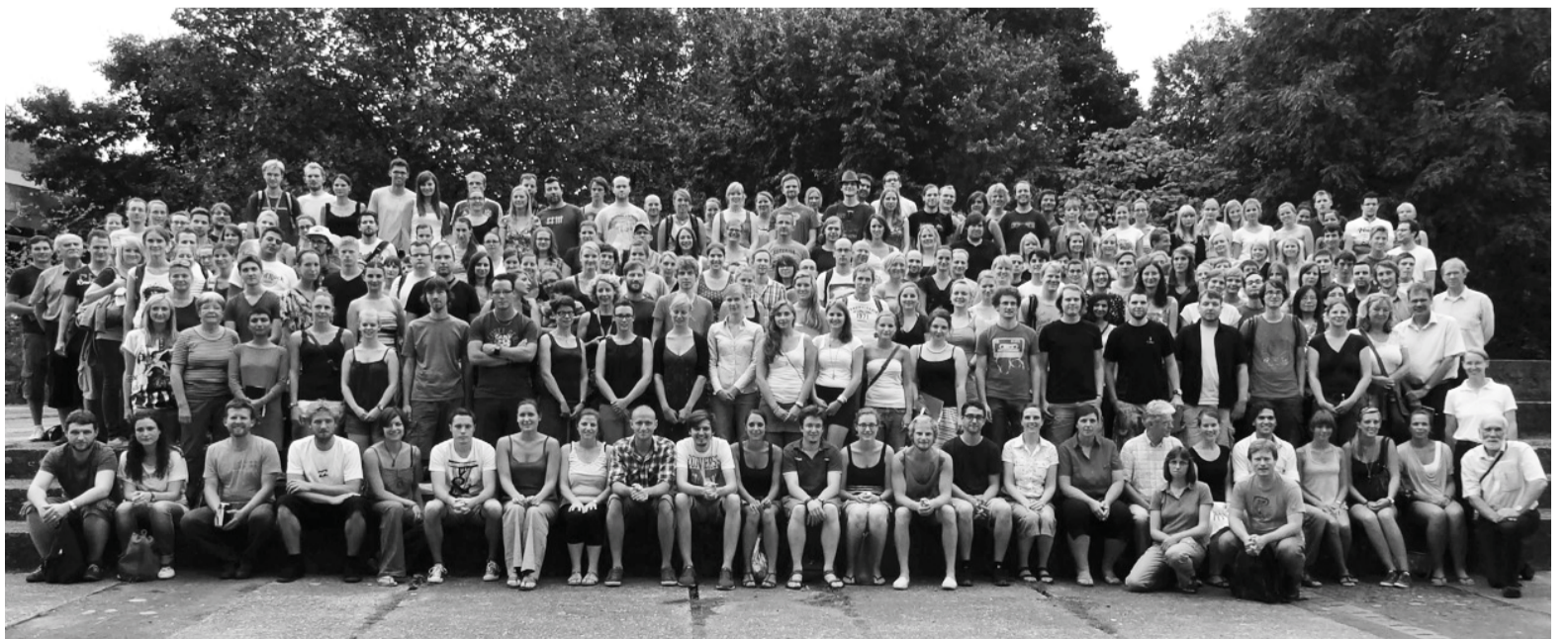
Young Researchers from four different countries used the opportunity to apply for the IGC YRF Poster Session which was held on Tuesday evening during the „official“ IGC Poster Session. Covering a wide range of topics the Young Researchers bravely mastered the challenge to make a standing on an international congress. All visitors to the poster exhibition were invited to vote for their favorite student poster by ballot.



Hence, the winners truly represent the opinion of all participants.

We are happy to announce the three winners of the YRF Poster Session! Congratulations!

- 1st Place: Kristof Dorau | Cologne | Germany
- 2nd Place: Ana-Ilinca Hoinic | Bucharest | Romania
- 3rd Place: Elisabeth Miltz | Jena | Germany



Thank you to the Local Organising Committee, the Institute of Geography and the IGC 2012 Volunteers. And to all participants: thanks for having participated in the IGC 2012, Cologne. Have a safe journey back home. See you again in Kyoto.

**HAVE A LOOK AT...**

... the IGU Journals Database, which is the IGU's extensive list of Geography or Geography-related journals of the world. You can search by country, journal name, key word or other attributes.

The database was initiated by Ton Dietz and colleagues at the African Studies Centre in Leiden.

<http://www.igu-online.org>

**IGU SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROJECT**

On Monday August 27, the results of one of the IGU special projects have been shared with IGC participants: the sustainable cities project (IGU Global Sustainable Cities Information Network). At the request of IGU's executive board, between 2010 and 2012 a group of Chinese scholars from Hunan University in Changsha has developed a pilot project with inputs from Prof. Ton Dietz from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands (on behalf of IGU). With Changsha city as an example a 'rainbow method' was developed, and used on two websites:

In English: [www.oursus.org](http://www.oursus.org)  
and in Chinese: <http://zh.oursus.org>.

Seven different rainbow colors are being used to organize information about seven major elements of urban sustainability. For each of the rainbow colors (themes) there is room for:

- (1) experiences (by website users/ any type of contributor)
- (2) products and cases (for businesses and agencies): both 'advertisements' and 'approved' examples of sustainable products and cases
- (3) challenges (for sharing comments and criticisms) and
- (4) campaigns (for the 'environmental movement').

Social media are fully integrated.

Any questions?

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**Global Sustainable Cities**