



IGC
COLOGNE 2012
DOWN TO EARTH

IGC TODAY 28.08.2012

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

DEAR COLLEAGUES,



I hope you are enjoying Cologne and the Congress. With Sunday's spectacular Opening Ceremony, yesterday's full day of congress sessions, and last night's Mayor's Reception in the Cologne Town Hall behind us, today marks the halfway point of the Congress. So much has happened already, but much remains to enjoy...

Today's session devoted to Facets of Contested Geographies: Negotiating lieux de mémoire in Transnational Contexts (10:00–11:30 am in COM 01) was organized by IGU Vice Presidents Ruth Fincher and Dietrich Soyez at the request of the IGU Executive Committee. The session is a response to the controversies regarding the location of the 2010 IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv and the venue of the November 2011 IGU Regional Conference in Santiago—the Escuela Militar Bernardo O'Higgins. The session will focus on general geographic approaches to understanding places deemed sanctified or profaned.

The first IGU General Assembly session was held yesterday afternoon. Among the items to be addressed at today's General Assembly session is the election of the IGU President for 2012-2016 and of four IGU Vice Presidents for the same period. While only National Committees of countries in good standing may nominate candidates for the IGU Executive Committee and cast ballots in the General Assembly, all individuals registered for the Congress may observe the General Assembly. If you'd would like to watch the election, come to Com 01 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. The exact time of the balloting has not been fixed, but it will most likely occur between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. Enjoy the day and the city. I hope to see you tonight at the Congress Dinner.

Ron Abler
President, International Geographical Union

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Last night at Cologne's historic town hall.
From left to right: Dietrich Soyez, Frauke Kraas, Ron Abler, Jürgen Roters.

LORD MAYOR'S RECEPTION

An Official Welcome to Cologne!

The Lord Mayor of Cologne extends a warm welcome to IGC 2012 participants at the city's historic town hall.

Last evening, with the first day of IGC sessions and lectures behind them, some 620 scientists and scholars from around the world made their way from one 14th century institution – the University of Cologne – to the next, Cologne's historic town hall, where they were received by the city's Lord Mayor Jürgen Roters.

Proud hosts

The town hall's "Piazzetta", where the Lord Mayor received his guests amid music and pretzels, was abuzz with the excitement of a day of firsts – the first full day of IGC sessions and lectures of the first Congress to be held in Germany in over 100 years.

Honoured that his city of Cologne had been selected as the venue of the International Geographical Union's (IGU) quadrennial meeting, Lord Mayor Roters noted the aptness of the choice. As the Lord Mayor pointed out in his address, science and research have been a part of the city's fabric since

the founding of the University of Cologne in 1388, making it a central research hub within Germany.

The Lord Mayor also called attention to how well-timed the choice was, with the University – in Roters' words "a true gem" in the region's science landscape – having just been named a "University of Excellence" by the Federal Government of Germany. A perfect location for a week of high-calibre and stimulating discussion for the international geographical community.

Truly "down to earth"

Before handing over to IGU President Ron Abler, the Lord Mayor congratulated Professor Kraas and the rest of the Local Organising Committee for putting on such a high-profile event in Cologne, a cosmopolitan city that prides itself for its friendliness and its uncomplicated, down-to-earth way. Just another reason why Cologne is the perfect choice for the IGC.

IGC

Professor Anne Glover meets with young researchers

The Chief Scientific Advisor of the President of the European Commission, Professor Anne Glover, passed three 'golden rules' on to the young researchers, when she, and her assistant, the geographer Dr. Jan Marco Müller, gathered with the young geographers for drinks and an informal chat after the IGC's Official Opening Ceremony: Be positive. Be proud of the exciting research you are doing and don't forget to communicate it beyond academia. And finally, don't be shy.

Admitting that she used to be very shy herself, Professor Glover suggested: "Just ask yourself: What's the worst that could happen? If it's anything less than dying, then don't worry."

Not being afraid of rejections seems to have served Professor Glover well in her extraordinary career as scientist and policy advisor. Professor in microbiology at the University of Aberdeen, she was appointed scientific advisor to the Scottish government in 2006 and European Chief Scientific Advisor in 2011.

Despite her light-hearted style, her honest advice left the young researchers very impressed. As Vanessa Rodriguez, a young researcher from Brazil, currently studying in Cologne put it: "Anne is such an inspirational person! It's amazing to have had this opportunity to talk to her!"

Valerie Viehoff

DATES

28.08.2012, 11.45 am:
Keynote-lecture "Urbanisation & Demographic Change"

Martin Lees
"Demographic change and urbanisation within the boundaries of a fragile planet"

Surinder Aggarwal
"Emerging global urban order and challenges for harmonious urban development"

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

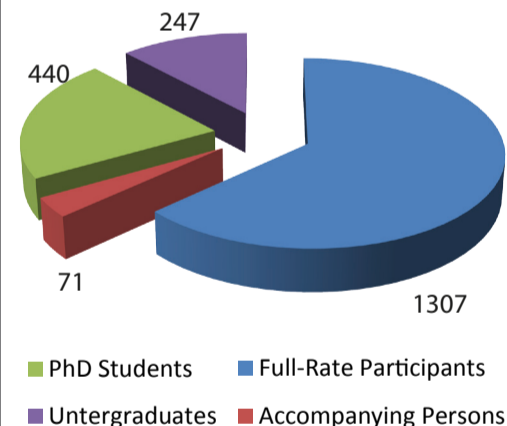
LAST MINUTE CHANGE

FIELD TRIP HD 05: Cologne cathedral treasury

New meeting point: Main entrance of Cologne Cathedral

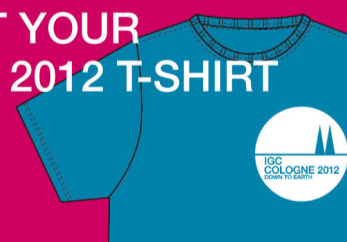
VGdH PhD-AWARD

Award of the price for the best PhD-thesis in human geography is postponed: It will now take place during the poster session tomorrow at 6:30 pm.



Registered participants by status

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.

INTERVIEW
HLAING MAW OO

I wanted to be a geographer, because...



Being an architect and a planner responsible for human settlements planning, I felt an urge to understand interrelations and problems of the changing physical and socio-economical environment in my country. I believed such understanding to be vital, in fulfilling my planning tasks responsibly. That is why I became a geographer. While exploring parts and bits of the vast field of Geography, I have come to understand that the most important task of geographers, both physical and human, is to contribute towards the well-being of humankind. All the encounters with and explorations of nature, places, people, activities and traditions undertaken by the geographers in an unbiased and open-minded manner facilitate a better understanding of the past and the present, which I believe is an essential step towards a better future.

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Happy Birthday,
dear Frauke!

COMMENT OF THE DAY

"The programme is well organized. Especially the session in applied geography gave young researchers a great overview on geographers' practical work."

- Vergara Adrian | Universidad del Norte | Colombia -

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
28.08.2012



26°C, cloudy

IMPRINT

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Press breakfast at the "Alter Senatssaal" Tuesday morning

KEYNOTE "URBANISATION & DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE"

Emerging global urban order and challenges to achieving a harmonious urban development

Professor Surinder Aggarwal addresses current urbanization trends

More than half of the world's population is now living in urban areas, making urbanization a defining phenomenon of this century. At the centre of this transformation are cities in developing countries.

The new face of urbanization

Developing countries, with a 73% share of global urban population and high urban growth rates, are the new actors in contemporary urbanization. Urbanization today is driven by globalization forces, neo-liberalization tendencies, technology transfer and national policy changes. Push factors that propelled urbanization until the mid-90s are now being reversed by pull forces. Urban growth is not uniform, but rather this urban transition is dominated by the developments occurring in the world's megacities, global cities and emerging urban agglomerations. Recent trends also indicate high growth rates of mid-size cities. Voluntary migration that had fuelled early migration streams is now being supplemented and reshaped by recruitment agencies, employment regimes and immigration policies. Recent demographic structures also exhibit signs of change, with more women migrants and swelling elderly and young population cohorts.



duals from society. The natural world (including urban ecosystems) is being abused and mediated through resource exploitation, urban sprawl, air and water pollution. Climate change, ecological footprints and natural disasters are the results. Likewise, neo-colonization along with neo-liberalization also incurs social costs for the majority, while generating only minoreconomic benefits for a small number of urban residents. Conflicts over social and economic spaces disturb the social harmony of the urban society. Both converging and diverging forces are operating simultaneously to produce concentrated and highly differentiated and fragmented urban landscapes. The phenomenon of 'local losers' and 'global winners' is also becoming more evident.

Towards a harmonious urban development

To achieve harmonious urban development, developing countries' foremost challenge is conservation and protection of (urban) ecosystems and to provide poverty reduction. For wealthy countries the challenge lies in containing urban sprawl, promoting inner cities, encouraging mixed land use planning, and appreciating emerging social and cultural heterogeneity for harmonious and inclusive urban landscapes. Energy efficiency through judicious land use and public transport development will be essential for combating climate change. Overall, what is most needed is a shift in theoretical underpinnings and urban research to explain emerging urban forms, agglomeration economies, rural-urban fuzzy dichotomy, rising inequities, and new urbanism.



Professor Surinder Aggarwal

Impacts

Advanced capitalism, largely responsible for contemporary urbanization process, distances humans from nature and indivi-



IGC SPOTLIGHT

COMPETENCE-ORIENTED GEOGRAPHY TEACHING

The two-day symposium "Geography and School" held in German got off to a good start yesterday, with more than 300 participants in attendance. Our mission of integrating educators responsible for modern geography teaching into the IGC was clearly accomplished!



The main symposium sessions addressed four key competencies: systemic thinking, methods and skills, orientation in space and communication. Best-practice examples from all types of German schools were presented during the sessions, with the goal of identifying the components of competence-oriented geography teaching.

IGC participants interested in the subject of geographical education are invited to join the symposium **TODAY** from 10:00-11:30 am. The panel discussion on International online-discussions of German, Indian and American students concerning global climate change with Hans-Rudolf Bork (President of the German Geographic Society/DGfG) and Hartmut Grassl (Max Planck Institute, Hamburg) will take place in room MAIN 13.

Dorothea Wiktorin

IGC FACHSCHAFT GEOGRAPHIE ROONBURG

29 August 2012
-
8 pm
-
Roonburg

IGC 2012
IGC - PARTY
YOUNG RESEARCHERS'

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