International Geographical Congress: Two CFPs of the Commission History of Geography

The Commission History of Geography organizes two sessions for the incoming 35th ICG, Dublin 24-30 August 2024 (submissions and more information at this link by 12 January 2024: https://igc2024dublin.org/call-for-abstracts/), on the themes:

1. Art and Geographical Thought: The Different Forms of the Geographer's Art
2. Institutions in the Histories of Geography

Calls pasted below

1. Session title:
Art and Geographical Thought: The Different Forms of the Geographer's Art?

Session conveners:
Toshiyuki Shimazu (Wakayama University) shimazu@wakayama-u.ac.jp
Tamami Fukuda (Osaka Metropolitan University) tamamif@omu.ac.jp

Geography and art have long been seen as intertwined since the era of Alexander von Humboldt and Carl Ritter. John Fraser Hart affirmed in his presidential address at the 1981 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers that “The highest form of the geographer's art is producing good regional geography.” However, art is a multifaceted thing and we should not confine the significance of art to the description of the earth’s differentiated surface. Art, especially visual arts have played a significant role as research tools and materials in geography. The ways to approach the visual are on great variety and evolving in the history of geographical thought. Some scholars make an emphasis on the concepts including visuality, materiality and affect in their geographical research. Not only image itself and its production but also its circulation and audience are extensively studied. Other scholars speak of geography’s “creative (re)turn” which deploys artistic or creative practices as research methods. Geography itself includes a variety of thoughts and practices concerning the ways we understand and represent our world. In this session, with the Congress’s theme “Celebrating a World of Difference” in mind, we aim at addressing the diverse and complex relationships between art and geographical thought. We especially seek contributions on, but not limited to:
- the place of art in different geographical thoughts and practices
- the mutual construction of geography and art
- geographical and geopolitical thoughts in art
- art in spaces, places, landscapes
- art and geographical imaginations
2 Session title
Institutions in the Histories of Geography

Session organisers:
Mariana Lamego (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro), Liz Baigent (University of Oxford), Federico Ferretti (Università di Bologna), Heike Jöns (Loughborough University), André Reyes Novaes (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro), Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca)

The geographies of institutions constitute a fascinating but highly contradictory world of sameness and difference, homogeneity and diversity, standardisation and multiplicity, freedom and control, harmony and conflict, empowerment and discrimination. Historians of geography have critically examined the role of formal and informal institutions, understood in the broadest possible sense as norms, rules, and organisations, with a great variety of epistemic and political interests. Some researched how institutions that played an important role in the history of geography were created, changed, and undermined by professional geographers and other people (e.g., Bell and McEwan 1996; Keighren 2017; Ferretti 2019; Schelhaas et al. 2020). Others studied how such institutions shaped individual and collective biographies and impacted on a range of institutions, territories, and networks, geographical imaginations and visions, as well as national, international, and imperial disciplinary traditions, thereby creating contested geographical knowledges as well as sociocultural inclusions and exclusions across different axes of sociocultural difference (e.g., Livingstone 1992; Blunt 1994; Driver 2001; Maddrell 2009; Withers 2010; Morin 2011; Monk 2017; Georg and Wardenga 2020; Davies 2022).

Two years after the IGU Centenary Congress 2022 in Paris, which encouraged continuing examinations of the history of the International Geographical Union itself (e.g., IGU Commission on History of Geographical Thought 1972; Robic et al. 1996; Roche 2019; Kolosov et al. 2022), we aim to bring together geographers from different countries, who research the role of institutions in the history of geography, to discuss more varied multicultural and multilingual perspectives than the selective yet exemplary English-language works cited in our call for papers can provide. We are interested in critical interrogations that may address but are not limited to the following broader themes:

- The role of geographers, including women geographers and other minority contributors, for creating, changing, undermining, circumventing, and abolishing geographical institutions, including related interests, debates, and conflicts;
- Negotiations of membership debates along intersectional axes of sociocultural difference, such as gender, LGBTQIA+ identities, sexuality, and diverse ethnicities;
- Support of and opposition against initiatives of sociocultural equality, diversity, and inclusion in the context of geographical institutions;
- The biography of institutions in geography and associated fields;
- Geographical institutions and Indigenous cultures;
- The professional, social, and affective experiences offered by geographical institutions;
- The wider impacts of geographical institutions on academic and other practices in different disciplines, countries, and world regions;
• The construction of geographical discourses, knowledges, and imaginations through geographical institutions;
• The material and technological constitution and impacts of geographical institutions;
• More-than-representational and more-than-human histories of geographical institutions;
• Mobilities, encounters, and performances within and of geographical institutions;
• Visionary, utopian, and planned-but-not-implemented geographical institutions;
• The biography, networks, and collaborations of learned societies in geography and associated fields;
• The contributions of kindergartens, schools, universities and other types of organisations to the history of geography and vice versa;
• The linkages between informal norms, rules, and organisations and the history of geography, including collaborative, social, and activist networks;
• The processes by which geographical institutions have succeeded, struggled, or failed to change economic, geopolitical, and sociocultural contexts;
• Critical perspectives on the role of colonial, decolonising, and postcolonial geographical institutions for (re)producing global inequalities;
• Nationalism, internationalism, and the geopolitics of geographical institutions, including their role in starting, shaping, and ending territorial conflicts;
• The relationships between geographical institutions, other disciplines, and the wider public.

Please send suggestions for conference session papers to Mariana Lamego (mariana.lamego@uerj.br) by 15 December 2023. For details on the proposal of a paper title and abstract, please see https://igc2024dublin.org/call-for-papers/.

References