

# IGU COMMISSION ON TOURISM, LEISURE AND GLOBAL CHANGE

Newsletter 2023



## Message from the IGU Tourism Commission Chair

I hope this newsletter finds all members of the International Geographical Union's Tourism Commission community keeping well! This newsletter provides an update on our activities and achievements in 2022-2023, as well as all of our upcoming events and latest news.

2023 has been a stellar year for our Commission, with collaborations on three IGU thematic conferences on three different continents, following an equally stellar 2022 with a fantastic IGC pre-meeting in Wageningen, the Netherlands and our biggest ever presence at an IGU-IGC at the Paris Centennial in July. Our collaborations with other Commissions and other organisations also continue to build bridges between different parts of our global tourism geographies community, promoting collaborative ventures and research synergies to define possible geographical approaches to tourism-related challenges.

At the time of writing, the **next IGC in Dublin (August 2024 - abstract deadline 12/01/2024)** and we are all set to repeat the huge presence of IGU Tourism Commission members, sessions and other activities, including the Alan A. Lew Annual Lecture, the Tourism Commission members meeting and another joint Commission-Tourism Geographies journal social event - we hope to see as many of you there as possible! Many of our members are also due to meet immediately prior to the Dublin IGC for the **Tourism Commission's Pre-Meeting in Galway, Ireland**, which is shaping up to be a fantastic small scale event in a more informal setting (in keeping with the tradition of meeting before major IGU congresses).

Several other events are in the pipeline for 2024 and 2025, including the XIX International Colloquium of the Spanish Geographers Association AGE-IGU in Cullera, Spain and the IGU Thematic Conference in Quito, Equador (plus watch this space for news of an IGU Tourism regional event in the Amazon!). For further information, please visit our website [www.igutourism.org](http://www.igutourism.org) and follow our new handles on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#), as well as our existing handles on [Twitter/X](#) and [Facebook](#).

All best wishes,

**Dr Julie Wilson**

**IGU Tourism Commission Chair 2020-2024**

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# Awards and Honours 2023



The Commission is proud to announce that Commission Board Member **Professor Joseph M Cheer** (Western Sydney University, Australia) was recently appointed **Co-Chair of the American Association of Geographers Specialty Group on Recreation, Tourism and Sport (AAG-RTS)**, along with Professor Jennie Germann-Molz. The Commission has long-standing links with the AAG-RTS and this close collaboration will continue in the future via different events and initiatives.

## IGU Tourism Commission - Highlights from 22/23

**34th IGC Centennial Congress, Sorbonne, Paris France.** 19 thematic sessions sponsored by IGU Tourism and an Excellence Award lecture, given by Prof. Joseph Cheer, as well as a brilliant social event in the Jardins de Luxembourg and a lively members meeting! [INFO.](#)

**Pre-meeting, Wageningen, the Netherlands.** An informal and relaxed pre-event to the Paris IGC congress, with fantastic field trips to the Kröller-Müller museum and the city of Amsterdam to look at city-tourism conflicts. Organised by Prof. Edward Huijbens. [INFO.](#)

**Accessibility and Inclusive Tourism in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic,** Hybrid international seminar co-organised by the IGU Tourism Commission and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. [INFO.](#)

**American Association of Geographers AAG Annual Meeting 2023,** Denver, Colorado. USA. [INFO.](#)

IGU thematic conference on **Islands in Relations: Conflicts, Sustainability, and Peace**, proposed by the Japan National Committee for the IGU (JNC) in collaboration with IGU Commissions on: Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change (C20.17), Islands (C20.25), Latin American and Caribbean Studies (C20.30), Political Geography (C20.36), and Toponymy (C20.40), April 4-6 2023, Osaka, Japan. [INFO.](#)

**8th International Workshop on the Sharing Economy IWSE,** Vienna, Special session track co-sponsored by the IGU Tourism Commission and the EPTUR Project (NOUTUR Research Group, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya): **Resisting norms in a digitally mediated world: Alternatives in tourism and mobilities-related platform economies.** 22nd-23rd May 2023. Organised by: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna / Vienna University of Economics and Business & Lund University. [INFO.](#)

IGU Thematic conference on **The Ocean and Seas in Geographical Thought**, convened by the Commission on the History of Geography, Milan (Italy), 5-8 June 2023. Special session sponsored by IGU Tourism: **Powered by blowing winds, routed by glittering stars, drifted by unfavourable streams? Being at sea as a tourism resource in geographical thought.** [INFO.](#) (Commission represented by Dr Alberto Forte).

IGU Thematic Conference on **Urban Governance: from Historical to Resilient Cities**, convened by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Urban Geography Commission and organised in collaboration with the National Autonomous University of Mexico - UNAM. The IGU Tourism Commission sponsored a session entitled 'Tourism as a driver of urban change in post-pandemic cities'. [INFO.](#)

Special session track on 'Transport, tourism and climate change: The tyranny of distance travelled' at the **EUGEO Congress 2023 in Barcelona**, 4th-7th Sept 2023. [INFO.](#)



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# 35<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS 2024

24-30 August | Dublin, Ireland

## IGU Tourism Commission sponsors 24 thematic sessions at the 35th IGC Dublin, August 2024 (abstract deadline 12/1/24)

The IGU Tourism Commission are sponsoring 24 sessions at the Dublin IGC in August 2024, hope to see you there! For more info: <https://www.igutourism.org/dublin-2024.html>

- Beyond development: Community empowerment, social justice, and the local in tourism** (Chairs: Bailey Ashton Adie, Alberto Amore)
- Blue-Green restoration: Tourism and leisure in river cities** (Chairs: Joseph M Cheer, Philip Hayward, Arianne Reis)
- Bridging nature-based tourism and conservation: How to tackle the over-tourism resurgence?** (Chairs: Rie Usui, Thomas Jones)
- Changing skylscapes, place and space** (Chairs: Georgia MacMillan, Therese Conway, Marie Mahon)
- Critical geographies of festivals and events** (Chairs: Bernadette Quinn, Julie Wilson, Alba Colombo, Andrew Smith)
- Critical geographies of tourism** (Chairs: Ivan Murray, Asunción Blanco-Romero, Macià Blázquez-Salom)
- Feminist tourism geographies through emergent histories** (Chairs: Maartje Roelofsen, Chih-Chen Trista Lin)
- Geographies and mobilities of hiking in the post-pandemic Anthropocene** (Chairs: Kelsey Johansen, Tim Harms, Markus Pillmayer, Marius Mayer, Christian Eilzer)
- Geographies of tourism and wildlife conservation in the Anthropocene** (Chairs: Qingming Cui, Honggang Xu)
- Island tourism transformations: Resilient islands and revitalized communities** (Chairs: Carolin Funck, Kyungjae Jang, Qu Meng, Rie Usui)
- Metagovernance, resilience and tourism in the Age of the Anthropocene: beyond business and policies as usual** (Chairs: Alberto Amore, Jarkko Saarinen)
- More-than-human agencies in sustainable rural tourism** (Chairs: Honggang Xu, Jie Li)
- Neoliberalism and tourism: critical perspectives** (Chairs: Rita Cruz, Carolina Todesco)
- On the edge of culture and tourism: Exploring the dynamics of cultural routes and heritage trails** (Chairs: Alessia Mariotti, Dimitri Ioannides, Maja Turnsek, Maria Laura Gasparini)
- Post-pandemic perspectives on second homes and multilocal living** (Chairs: Dieter K. Müller, Andreas Back, Gijsbert Hoogendoorn)
- Prospects and limits of policy, governance, and individual practices for sustainability transformations and carbon neutrality in tourism** (Chairs: Dorothee Bohn, Pamela Bachmann-Vargas, O. Cenk Demiroglu)
- Re-envisioning the mobilities of in/hospitable work** (Chairs: Tara Duncan, David Scott, Susanna Heldt Cassel, Maria Thulemark)
- Re-negotiating leisure, events, and tourism spaces in the age of the Anthropocene** (Chairs: Alberto Amore, Solène Prince, Valeria Pecorelli, Barbara Grabher)
- Resistance against development projects in retrospective: seeking for emancipatory geographies** (Chairs: Nora Müller, Alejandro Armas-Díaz, Angela Hof)
- Revisiting, reframing and reaffirming Tourism Geographies: Critical post-disciplinary perspectives** (Chairs: Joseph M. Cheer, Mary Mostafanezhad)
- Social innovation in indigenous tourism development. Examining the challenges and strategies to support sustainable livelihoods in indigenous tourism** (Chair: Sonya Graci)
- Tourism geographies and the revitalisation of the rural periphery** (Chair: Joseph M. Cheer)
- Tourism geographies looking forward: a critical review of (no)changes in times of uncertainty** (Chairs: Josep A. Ivars-Baidal, Anna Torres-Delgado, Carmen Hidalgo-Giralt, Francisco Femenia-Serra)
- Tourism, work and migration interfaces in the digital world** (Chairs: Malin Zillinger, Jan Henrik Nilsson)

## DON'T MISS OUR COMMISSION'S SPECIAL EVENTS DURING THE 35TH IGC DUBLIN 2024!

IGU Tourism Commission Panel Sessions:

- **Tourism Geographies: Reflections and Projections on a Decade of Change**
- **Urban sustainability through the lens of sustainable tourism: Towards healthy, green and inclusive cities** (IGU Urban Geography Commission / IGU Tourism Commission)

The **Alan A. Lew Annual Lecture**, organised by the IGU Tourism Commission, will take place during the Dublin IGC. The lecture is organised in the format of a conversation between two key scholars in our field:

**Professor Dieter Müller**, former IGU Tourism Chair, professor of social and economic geography and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of research and postgraduate education within the social sciences and humanities at Umeå University.  
**Professor Mary Mostafanezhad**, Co-Editor in Chief of the Taylor & Francis journal *Tourism Geographies*, former Chair of the AAG Specialty Group on Recreation, Tourism and Sport and professor in the Department of Geography and Environment at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

During the Dublin IGC there will be a **joint IGU Tourism Commission / Tourism Geographies Journal social event**: date, time and venue to be confirmed soon. In addition, the IGU Tourism Commission members meeting will take place during the Dublin IGC. **More info will be available soon on our website [www.igutourism.org](http://www.igutourism.org).**



**Host organiser**  
**Dr Bernadette Quinn**  
**TU Dublin, Ireland**

## IGU Tourism Commission IGC 2024 Pre-Meeting Galway, Ireland 22nd-24th August 2024

# Just Transitions and Transformations in Tourism

The IGU Tourism Commission is delighted to host the IGC2024 Pre-Meeting in Galway, Ireland, August 22nd–24th 2024. Building on the well-established tradition of bringing tourism geographers together before the main IGC so as to debate pertinent questions pertaining to contemporary tourism, this Pre-Meeting extends a Céad míle fáilte (a very warm welcome) to all geographers working on tourism-related issues.

The Pre-meeting will comprise a day of academic sessions held on the University of Galway campus in the heart of Galway city (Aug 22 nd ), a day of field visits centred on the rural Burren region in neighbouring county Clare (Aug 23 rd ) and finally, (Aug 24 th ) a morning of field visits in Galway city before travelling to Dublin for the afternoon opening of the IGC.

While cognisant of the many positive contributions that tourism can make to people, communities and places the world over, tourism geographers and other scholars have long critiqued prevailing tourism structures, mobilities and practices because of the challenges they pose for social, cultural, economic and environmental sustainability. The guiding framework for sustainable development provided by the UN SDGs continues to provoke a search for new, alternative and better ways forward in the context of climate change and global societal crises. Tourism geographers have been to the fore in calling for profound transformation, and research output advocating regenerative approaches / transformational shifts is growing.

While academic commentators agree that change is both necessary and monumentally challenging to achieve, policy makers are equally charged, albeit unequally vested, with finding effective visions, approaches and mechanisms. The EU, for example, is currently investing heavily in a 'Just Transition' programme. Like the UN's SDGs, the aim of the Just Transition project is to leave no one behind. Currently being adopted by governments within the EU, including in Ireland, it is a framework that guides and incentivises currently unsustainable systems and practices to transition to structurally different alternatives that reduce or at least stabilise climate change while fostering socio-cultural equality and inclusion. Somewhat ironically, tourism often features centrally as a transitional pathway, notwithstanding existing awareness of the problems engendered by tourism practices as currently structured and the growing calls, in some arenas, for tourism degrowth.

This Tourism Commission Pre-Meeting welcomes contributions from tourism geographers on any matter relating to contemporary tourism but it particularly welcomes contributions that problematise how tourism is currently enmeshed in unsustainable modes of production and consumption and/or propose where more societally just, culturally inclusive and climate neutral future tourism pathways might lie.

Please submit an abstract of up to 250 words synopsis your proposed contribution to [Bernadette.Quinn@tudublin.ie](mailto:Bernadette.Quinn@tudublin.ie) indicating whether you would like to offer a standard paper presentation (15 mins) or a shorter elevator style pitch (5 mins).

Submission deadline: 31st March 2024

More details will follow soon as regards the meeting programme and activities, accommodation and travel options.

(Photo credits: Bernadette Quinn)

For more info / programme:  
<https://www.igutourism.org/wageningen-2022-pre-meeting.html>

## IGU TOURISM COMMISSION COLLABORATES ON THE XIX INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM:

## RETHINKING TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN TIMES OF GLOBAL CHANGE

**CULLERA, SPAIN  
6TH-8TH JUNE 2024**



The IGU Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change are proud to be a collaborator on the XIX International Colloquium of the Spanish Geographers Association AGE-IGU on the geography of tourism, entitled: **Rethinking Tourist Destinations in Times of Global Change**. The event will take place in the town of Cullera, Valencia, Spain, from 6th-8th June 2024. The abstract submission process is now closed and registration for the event will be opening soon.

The organization is run by a team from the Catedra Ciutat de Cullera, the Cullera City Council, the University of Valencia, the Inter-university Institute for Local Development, the Department of Geography at the University of Valencia and the Tourism Geography Group of the Spanish Geographers Association (AGE).

Further info.

¡Os esperamos! Hope you can join us there



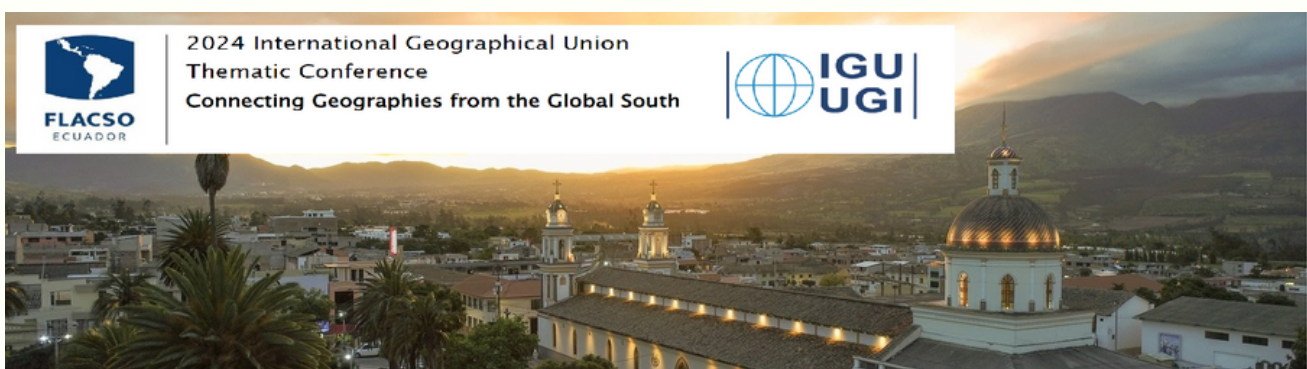
**IGU Tourism contact:**  
Prof. Josep Ivars Baidal, President,  
Spanish Geographers Association  
(AGE) Group 10 on the Geography of  
Tourism / University of Alicante

## SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING EVENTS FROM OTHER IGU COMMISSIONS IN 2024

2024 International Geographical Union Thematic Conference  
**'Connecting Geographies from the Global South'**  
May 15th-17th, 2024, FLACSO, Quito, Ecuador

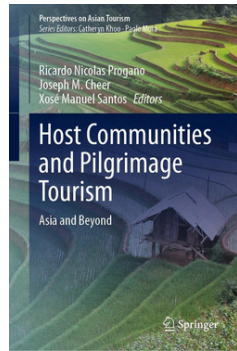
Deadline for abstracts submission (English or Spanish): January 15th 2024

<https://www.flacso.edu.ec/ugiglobalsouth2024/>

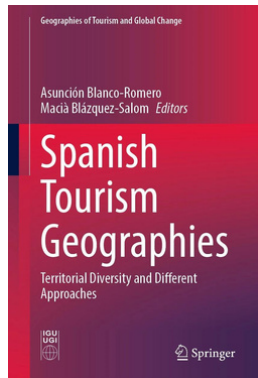
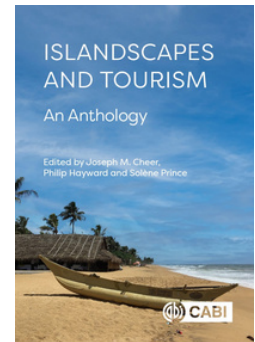


# LATEST PUBLICATIONS FROM IGU TOURISM COMMISSION MEMBERS

**‘Host Communities and Pilgrimage: Asia and Beyond’** Edited By Ricardo Nicolas Prozano, Joseph M. Cheer and Xosé Manuel Santos (Springer, 2023).

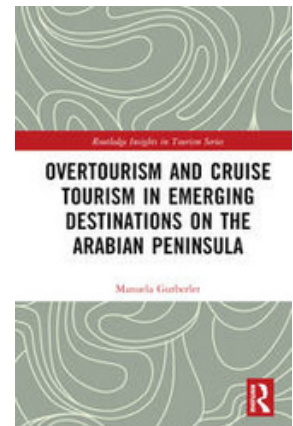


**‘Islandscapes and Tourism: An Anthology’** Edited By Joseph M. Cheer, Philip Hayward and Solene Prince (CABI, 2023).



**Spanish Tourism Geographies: Territorial Diversity and Different Approaches** (Springer, 2023) Edited by Asunción Blanco-Romero and Macià Blázquez-Salom. This groundbreaking book provides an overview of the recent progress in Spanish tourism geographies. It provides unique insight into the progress of tourism in Spain, discusses tourism in Spain after COVID-19 and identifies specific concepts in Spanish tourism geographies

**‘Overtourism and Cruise Tourism in Emerging Destinations on the Arabian Peninsula’** by Manuela Gutberlet (Routledge, 2023). This book is the first of its kind to provide in-depth insights into the emergence of mega-cruise tourism in destinations on the Arabian Peninsula and its impacts on local communities, their spaces, cultures, identities and tourist experiences.



## CALL FOR PAPERS

The journal **Tourism Geographies** has recently launched a call for a special issue on Digital Nomadism: Transforming Places, Contesting Spaces (Guest Editors: Olga Hannonen, Business School, University of Eastern Finland Kati Pitkänen, Finnish Environment Institute). For more information please visit: <https://www.tgjournal.com/digital-nomads.html>.

**DIGITAL NOMADISM:  
TRANSFORMING PLACES,  
CONTESTING SPACES**

Call for Papers  
Special Issue in  
**Tourism Geographies**

**GUEST EDITORS**  
Olga Hannonen  
University of Eastern Finland  
Kati Pitkänen  
Finnish Environment Institute

Abstracts deadline 15 August




Scan QR Code or see website for full details:  
<https://www.tgjournal.com/digital-nomads.html>



## Forthcoming IGU events

- 35th IGC Dublin, Ireland, August 2024
- IGU Regional Conference Istanbul, Turkey, 2026
- 36th IGC Melbourne, Australia, 2028

Any volunteers to **host future IGU Tourism Commission congress pre-meetings or other regional / thematic events?**  
Please get in touch with us at [igucommissiontourism@gmail.com](mailto:igucommissiontourism@gmail.com)

