

NEWSLETTER

IGU COMMISSION GEOGRAPHY OF TOURISM, LEISURE AND GLOBAL CHANGE

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34TH IGC ISTANBUL 2021

Geography: Bridging the
Continents
16-20 August 2021

NEW IGU- COMMISSION

The IGU assembly
confirmed the
continuation of the
commission and a new
leadership

UNCERTAIN TIMES

Obviously 2020 did not get the start that many had hoped for. The COVID-19 pandemic challenges everyday lives, academic activities and indeed our overall way of life.

From a commission perspective, the pandemic implied that many activities needed to be cancelled. Some of them will be organized at a later stage, others cannot be conducted at all. Of course, this means that many important and fruitful meetings could not take place.

At the same time, tourism geographers will most likely be needed more than ever. The pandemic illustrated the importance of tourism for individuals, communities, societies and economies impressively.

Independent whether one sees a quick recovery or a re-start of tourism towards a more sustainable mode on the top of the agenda, tourism geographers should grasp the opportunity to contribute to a better future.

PERSONAL NOTE

NEW IGU COMMISSION

During the IGU Assembly held online in August 2020, the continuation of the Commission for the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change was unanimously confirmed for the next four years.

According to the IGU statutes and in order to secure a renewal, some members need to leave the commission, while new ones will join. Professor Julie Wilson, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain, was appointed as the new chairperson of the commission. She will be supported by Professor Xu Honggang, Sun Yat-sen University, China, as a vice-chair. This is the first time that the commission will be lead by women, which is an important hallmark in the commission history as well.

Furthemore, Professor Joseph Cheer, Wakayama University, Japan, volunteers to replace the longstanding webmaster of the commission Professor Alan A. Lew.

More information of the commission will be presented soon by the new commission.

34th International Geographical Congress (IGC)

Besides organizing a great number of session during this event, the commission will conduct its business meeting during the conference.



The organizers opened the conference for new abstract submissions. Abstract should be submitted until **11 January 2021** through the conference online system available at www.igc2021.org



A commission memory from Quebec 2018

IGC tourism sessions

- Big data in tourism geographies
- Economic geographies of tourism
- Evolving geographies of Chinese outbound tourism
- Overtourism
- Peer-to-peer accommodation and tourism destinations beyond metropolitan areas
- Tourism and climate interrelationships
- Tourism and the sustainable development goals
- Tourism shaping places International tourism and residential mobility

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

After 12 years in the IGU Commission for the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change, - the last eight years as chairperson - it is now time for me to withdraw from the assignment. Being able to serve the commission has been a great pleasure and personally, it has been very rewarding. Particularly I enjoyed meeting and cooperating with fellow commission members and other tourism geographers, and I think we shared a lot of good conferences, companionship, and academic commitment.

Particularly, I would like to thank Alan Lew, who had been a great support not least in relation to web issues, but also in his role as editor for *Tourism Geographies* generously linking the journal to the commission.

I also would like to thank all those colleagues who volunteered and organized conferences together with the commission. Without your efforts the tourism geographers' community would be without the core activities of our community, enabling intellectual exchange and triggering cooperation. In a geographical tradition our conferences included field visits and study trips making the conferences very memorable events.

However, our conferences triggered important publications as well and during the last years we also established a Springer book series *Geographies of Tourism and Global Change* edited by myself and former commission members Jarkko Saarinen and Carolin Funck in order to further facilitate presentation and exchange of thoughts in tourism geographies.

***Now it however time to say goodbye as a chairperson.
At the same time, I would like to wish the new commission good
luck and certainly, I will see many of you again
at future IGU events - I see forward to that!***

Dieter K. Müller



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