

IGU Gender and Geography Commission Report 2014

A. Membership

(i) The Structure of the Steering Committee

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(ii) The Commission's corresponding members (as of September 2014) – number and by country

As of December 2014, the Commission's listserv includes over 670 subscribers representing at least 51 countries. This is an increase of 21.5% since January 2012 (when there were 554 subscribers). New members have been gained through Business Meetings held at each IGU Congress and pre-conference held in the last few years.

In terms of nationality, the specific national origins of about 15% of the Commission's subscribers cannot be identified since they use addresses such as Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo. In terms of individual countries, the largest representations continue to be from the US (13.2%), India (10.3%), the UK (8.6%), Spain (5.8%) and Canada (4.6%), while moderate participation levels are found in Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Japan (each comprising between 2.7% and 3.4% of the Commission's members). Participation in the listserv continue to be lowest in Eastern Europe (including Russia), East Asia (except Japan), Southeast Asia (other than Singapore) and Africa, with only a handful of subscribers in each of these regions (but it should be borne in mind that these are the regions in which subscribers are also more likely to use Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo addresses). Please see Table 1 and Map 1 for details.

Notably, Japanese, South Asian and Latin American membership has grown substantially over the last few years as a result of workshops the Commission have held there. Brazilian scholars continue to contribute regular entries (at least 20 per issue) to the Newsletter bibliography from the trilingual (Portuguese, Spanish English) electronic gender journal they began publishing in 2011.

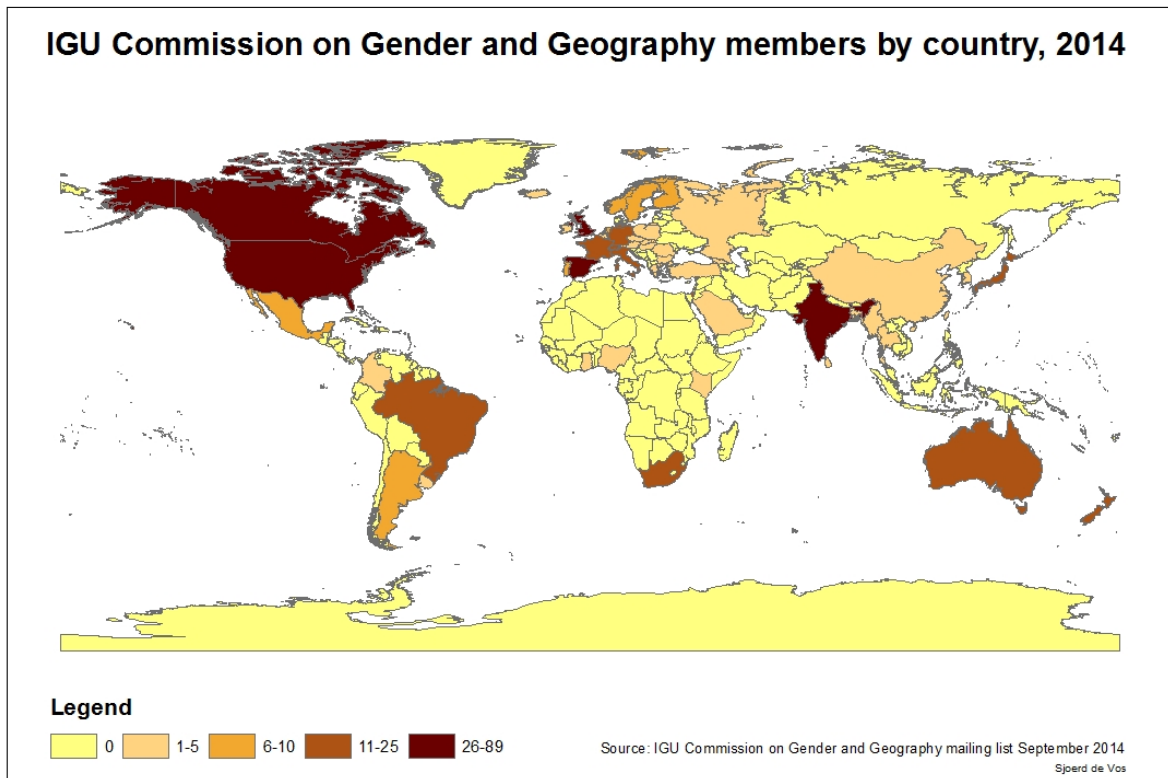
National and regional representation on the Steering Committee is strong: 5 members are from different parts of Western Europe (including the UK), 2 are from the US, and 1 each from Australia/New Zealand, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Twice each year, list members receive a newsletter via the Gender and Geography Commission's listserv (igugender@list.arizona.edu) with reports of activities of members and a substantial multilingual bibliography, with the full newsletter issued in English, French, and Spanish. Information is also circulated about other relevant conferences and the newsletter is additionally sent to the US-based geogfem listserv (almost 600 subscribers) and to the British gender and feminist geography listserv (grgrs@jiscmail.ac.uk). Additionally, the newsletter is archived on the Commission's website (<http://igugender.socsci.uva.nl/>) with issues dating from 1988 to the present.

Table 1: Members IGU Commission on Gender and Geography by Country, 2014

	2006	2014	Absolute increase	% increase
Number of members	326	673	347	106
Number of countries	47	51		
By country (see below for details)				
Countries with 1-5 members	31	28		
Countries with 6-10 members	7	8		
Countries with 11-25 members	7	10		
Countries with >25 members	2	5		
By region				
Anglo-North America	78	120	42	54
Asia/Pacific	65	155	90	138
Europe	137	236	99	72
Latin America/Caribbean	21	48	27	129
Middle East/North Africa	6	15	9	150
Sub Saharan Africa	10	17	7	70
Country not identified	17	82		

Argentina	9	Norway	7
Australia	22	Poland	4
Austria	2	Portugal	7
Bangladesh	1	Romania	4
Belgium	3	Russian F	2
Brazil	23	Saudi Arabia	1
Bulgaria	1	Singapore	7
Canada	31	Slovakia	1
China	4	South Africa	11
Colombia	3	South Korea	1
Czech R	3	Spain	39
Finland	8	Sri Lanka	1
France	12	Sweden	8
Georgia	2	Switzerland	18
Germany	21	Taiwan	4
Ghana	1	Thailand	2
Greece	1	Turkey	3
Hungary	4	UK	58
Iceland	3	Uruguay	1
India	69	USA	89
Ireland	3		
Israel	11	Unknown	82
Italy	18		
Jamaica	2	Total	673
Japan	21		
Kenya	3	Top-5 countries:	
Mexico	10	USA	89
Myanmar	1	India	69
Netherlands	9	UK	58
New Zealand	20	Spain	39
Nigeria	2	Canada	31



Map 1: Members IGU Commission on Gender and Geography by Country, 2014

B. Meetings

a) The meetings your commission organized in 2014 with information on their locations, dates, and numbers of participants.

2014

- Conference:** IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference workshop on *The Gendering of New Realities: Unequal Challenges and Responsibilities*
Venue: Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
Dates: 16-17 August 2014
No. of participants: 30+ (15 presentations)
Organisers: Bogumiła Lisocka-Jaegermann (University of Warsaw) and Mirosław Grochowski (University of Warsaw)
- Conference:** Latin American Geography, Gender and Sexualities (a conference endorsed by the IGU Gender Commission)
Venue: University of Rondônia (UNIR), Porto Velho, Rondônia, Brazil
Dates: 8-12 October 2014
No. of participants: 159 (>90 presentations)
Organisers: Maria das Graças Silva Nascimento Silva (University of Rondônia) and Joseli Maria Silva* (State University of Ponta Grossa)
**Steering Committee member of the Gender Commission*

- **Conference:** *Reorienting Gender: Geographies of Resistance, Agency, Violence and Desire in Asia* (a conference endorsed and supported by the IGU Gender Commission)
Venue: Department of Geography, University of Delhi, India
Dates: 19-21 November 2014
No. of participants: 100+ (26 presentations and 2 keynotes)
Organiser: Anindita Datta* (University of Delhi)
**Steering Committee member of the Gender Commission*

Note: The Gender Commission also organized a total of 13 sessions, including 3 joint sessions (with the Commissions of Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change; Political Geography; and Sustainability of Rural Systems) at the main IGU Regional Conference in Krakow, 18-22 August 2014. The Commission also organized a poster session and Business Meeting in Krakow.

- b) A brief summary of the topics addressed at each meeting and the findings or conclusions resulting from the discussions if appropriate. Please highlight the new ideas and insights identified at each meeting and their immediate and long-term theoretical and practical implications.
- **IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference Workshop on *The Gendering of New Realities: Unequal Challenges and Responsibilities*, University of Warsaw, 16-17 August 2014.**

Summary of topics addressed:

- 15 researchers presented their findings over 4 thematic sessions: “Gendered/Feminist Perspectives on Knowledge Production”, “Women, Work and the Market”, “Negotiating Gendered Spaces and Representations” (2 panels) and “Gendered Participation and Public Policy” (2 panels).
- Among the leading issues debated were:
 - the presence of women among academics in geography and conditions of their research activities in deferent contexts (with case studies presented on Japan, Brazil and Poland);
 - methodological and ethical problems related not only to feminist geographical research, but also more generally to social research conducted in ‘othered’ cultural settings (such as among indigenous women in Mexico, and aboriginal groups in Australia);
 - the strength of gendered stereotypes and representations in shaping everyday practices and male and female behaviour in public spaces, particularly the role of the media in their propagation and perpetuation;
 - patterns of public involvement and activities between men and women in different societies; and
 - women’s access to the labour market in times of economic crises and/or economic and political transformation.

Insights and implications:

- The Warsaw workshop was particularly significant because it was the first academic meeting devoted to gender dimension of geographical research held in Poland.
- The papers raised many questions and stimulated active discussion on a range of important issues around the theme of unequal gendered challenges and responsibilities. In particular, it was recognized that more work is still needed in the following areas: the way institutional factors frame how gender geographers do research, what they look at, and where they publish; as well as a

greater need for feminist participatory research, especially vis-à-vis marginalised groups and other overlooked gendered issues in society.

- The workshop discussions ended with the idea of a series of reports on the state of gender/feminist geography research and researchers in different parts of the world, focusing on describing the diverse conditions that shape gender/feminist geography research in different national, regional and institutional contexts.

Photos:

See Section E.

- **Seminar on *Latin American Geography, Gender and Sexualities*, Porto Velho, Rondônia, Brazil, 8-12 October 2014**

Summary of topics addressed:

- There were three key sub-themes within the broader theme of the conference: Space, sexualities and intersectionalities; Knowledge, body and intersectionalities; and Genders in movement: space, race, age and class.
- There was also a public presentation of the researcher network “REGGSILA” (Iberian and Latin American Network of Geography, Gender and Sexuality). The network’s goal is to facilitate the meeting of researchers working in this academic field to increase and deepen the communication amongst them.

Insights and implications:

- The conference contributed to a useful discussion of the theoretical and methodological aspects of gender, sexualities and intersectionality within Latin American Geography. In particular, because of the focus on spatial aspects, the discussions deepened the production of scientific knowledge co-relating gender and sexualities with the foundational concepts of geography.
- The conference also strengthened the relationship between national and international research groups, as well as among researchers from different countries and institutions on gender and sexualities (while most of the participants were from Brazil, there were also participants from Chile, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and the UK).
- The next meeting will take place at the beginning of 2017 in Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil.

Photos:

See Section E.

- **International Conference on *Reorienting Gender: Geographies of Resistance, Agency, Violence and Desire in Asia*, University of Delhi, 19-21 November 2014.**

Summary of topics addressed:

- 26 papers were presented in 9 technical sessions on the following themes: Everyday Geographies of Violence and Desire in NW India; Everyday Geographies of Resistance and Agency in Contested Spaces; Religion Culture and Patriarchal Control in Urban Spaces; Health Healing and Agency; Mapping Work, Well Being and Agency; Geographies of Desire in Real and Imagined Spaces; Gendered Agency and Everyday Geographies of the Home Space; Reading Cityscapes for Agency; and Meaning, Violence and Opportunity in Micro-spaces.

- All the papers maintained a thematic coherence in line with the overall conference theme of reorienting gender to highlight resistance and agency.
- The conference included a half-day workshop on “Feminist Methodology and Emerging Research on Gender”.

Insights and implications:

- The 3-day conference saw intense deliberations on gender and space in Asian contexts. The event also provided an important space for senior and junior scholars from 9 countries to network.
- A particularly significant aspect of the conference was the running of the “Workshop on Feminist Methodology and Emerging Research on Gender”, which was targeted at early career researchers. It included interactive sessions with senior scholars sharing their knowledge and experiences of feminist methodologies, including visual methodologies. The workshop was a direct outcome of discussions of the IGU Gender Commission in Kyoto where it was agreed that the Commission would provide funds up to USD1,000 to support the running of workshops in countries of the Global South to train feminist geographers and result in the consciousness-raising of gender issues in these countries.

Photos:

See Section E.

- c) **The meetings or other events you plan to hold in 2015 and later years, including locations, dates, and the topics to be addressed.**

2015

- **Conference:** *Gendered Rights to the City: Intersections of Identity and Power* (AAG & IGU Gender Commission Pre-Conference Event)

Venue: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, USA

Date: 19-20 April 2015

Organisers from IGU: Holly Hapke (East Carolina University), Janice Monk (University of Arizona), Ann Oberhauser (West Virginia University)*

Focus of the Conference: The conference will focus on the gendered experiences of race/ethnicity/religion within the broader contexts of urbanization, immigration/cultural diversity, and economic restructuring.

Collaborative Network: The conference will be co-organized with the Association of American Geographers’ (AAG) “Geographic Perspective on Women” (GPOW) group and the Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

**All are members/Steering Committee members of the IGU Gender Commission.*

C. Networking

- a) **Means by which your commission has collaborated with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces during 2014.**

The Commission co-organised three sessions with the following IGU Commissions at the Krakow Regional Meeting in August 2014. These were:

- Session on “Gender and Tourism” (5 papers), with C12.15 Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change

- Session on “Gender, Human Rights and Citizenship” (4 papers), with C12.33 Political Geography Commission
- Session on “Food Chains and the 3 S (Sovereignty, Safety and Sustainability)” (3 papers), with C12.35 Commission on Sustainability of Rural Systems.

b) Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary groups in 2014.

Various steering committee as well as ordinary members of the Commission regularly attend and organize conference sessions with other international and multi-disciplinary groups, including the main association conferences in the US and UK. For example, members presented research and organized joint paper sessions at both the Association of American Geography and Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) conferences in 2014.

c) Cooperative efforts with ISSC (International Social Science Council) and with ICSU (the International Council for Science) programs.

Robyn Longhurst, immediate past Chair of the Gender Commission, continues as a member of the Steering Committee of the International Year of Understanding (IYU) and to head the IYU continental secretariat for Oceania.

D. Publications 2014

a) Newsletters, special journal issues, and books published in 2014 (please provide complete citations for all publications).

The Gender Commission’s Newsletter:

- The Commission on Gender and Geography’s biennial newsletter was published in May and November 2014.
- It is edited by Professor Janice Monk and sent to the Commission’s 670+ plus members. The biennial newsletter (issued in English, French and Spanish) forms an important worldwide communication medium. Each issue (averaging 6-10 pages) conveys information on past and future meetings of the Commission, meetings organised by national and regional groups of feminist geographers, institutional events and personal research activities, publications and achievements of Commission members.
- The newsletter’s reach extends beyond the Commission and the IGU’s usual communication channels, as it is also uploaded onto Geogfem and the British Women in Geography Study Group list, while part of the newsletters is translated in German and incorporated in GeoRundbrief, a newsletter which links those interested in gender themes in geography in German-speaking countries.
- All issues of the IGU Gender Commission’s newsletters, beginning with No. 1, November 1988, are available on the Commission’s web site.

(b) The current accurate URL of the commission’s web site.

- <http://igugender.socsci.uva.nl/>

E. Archival Contributions

- a) Materials and publications transmitted to the IGU archives by your commission. Copies of all newsletters, monographs, special journal issues, etc. should be sent to IGU Secretary General upon publication.

As noted above, all issues of the IGU Gender Commission's newsletters may be downloaded directly from the Commission's web site and members of the IGU executive are included on the listserv. The website also includes reports on workshops organized and/or supported by the Gender Commission.

- b) Photographs from your meetings, field excursions, or other events that you are willing to share will be gratefully received and will be included in the *IGU e-Newsletter*.

- Photos of the IGU Gender Commission Pre-conference on "The Gendering of New Realities: Unequal Challenges and Responsibilities", Warsaw, 16-17 August 2014



International participants of the Pre-conference Workshop on a walking tour of Warsaw led by Mirosław Grochowski.



Workshop participants being welcomed at a sumptuous dinner by the Center of Social Communication of the Warsaw City Authorities at City Hall.



A paper session at the Gender Commission's Pre-conference Workshop held at the University of Warsaw.

- Photo of the IGU Gender Commission sessions at the IGU Regional Conference on “Changes, Challenges, Responsibility” in Krakow, Poland, 18-22 August 2014.



Participants at a well-attended Gender and Geography Commission session on Feminist Participatory Methodologies at the IGU Regional Conference meeting in Krakow.

- Photos of the Seminar on “Latin American Geography, Gender and Sexualities” in Porto Velho, Brazil, 8-12 October 2014.



A photo of the participants at the Seminar on Latin American Geography, Gender and Sexualities, Porto Velho, Brazil, 8-12 October 2014.

- Photos of the International Conference on *Reorienting Gender: Geographies of Resistance, Agency, Violence and Desire in Asia*, University of Delhi, 19-21 November 2014.



Delegates, Resource persons, Chair and volunteers of the International Conference on “Reorienting Gender: Geographies of Resistance, Agency, Violence and Desire in Asia”, University of Delhi, 19-21 November 2014



Inaugural session (L to R): Saraswati Raju (Keynote), Anindita Datta (Conference Convener & IGU Gender Commission Steering Comm. member), RB Singh (Head of Dept), Tovi Fenster (IGU Gender Commission), Helle Rydstrom (Keynote) and Vibha Parthasarathi (Chief Guest).www.ambaphotostudio.com

**Report submitted by Shirlena Huang
For the Commission on Gender and Geography
29 November 2014**

To submit by **15th December 2014** to mmeadows@mweb.co.za. These reports will also provide the Executive Committee with information for the evaluation of Commissions.