

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPY

NEWSLETTER 53

NOVEMBER, 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

I am pleased to share some great news in this newsletter, the most exciting of which is that the Gender and Geography Commission was selected as the inaugural recipient of the IGU's "Commission Excellence Award". The award recognises the commission that has most successfully advanced the objectives of the IGU! This year's award is based on our Commission's activities for 2012-13 and is a strong affirmation of the great work that the Gender Commission has done and continues to do to support issues important to gender and geography in many parts of the world and the great strides that gender and feminist geography has made in the discipline. The inserted photo shows Professors Janet Momsen (Founding Chair) (center), Janice Monk (Founding Vice-chair) (left), and Maria-Dolors Garcia Ramon (Founding Secretary) (right) with the award certificate. As Janet noted when she heard the news, "How wonderful to be recognized at last. Jan, Maria Dolors and I founded the Commission in 1988 after a great battle with the IGU who did not think that such a thing as gender was worth doing research on!" (You can read more about the Commission's history at



<http://igugender.socsci.uva.nl/documents/IGUGenderCommissionHistoryJune2008.pdf>).

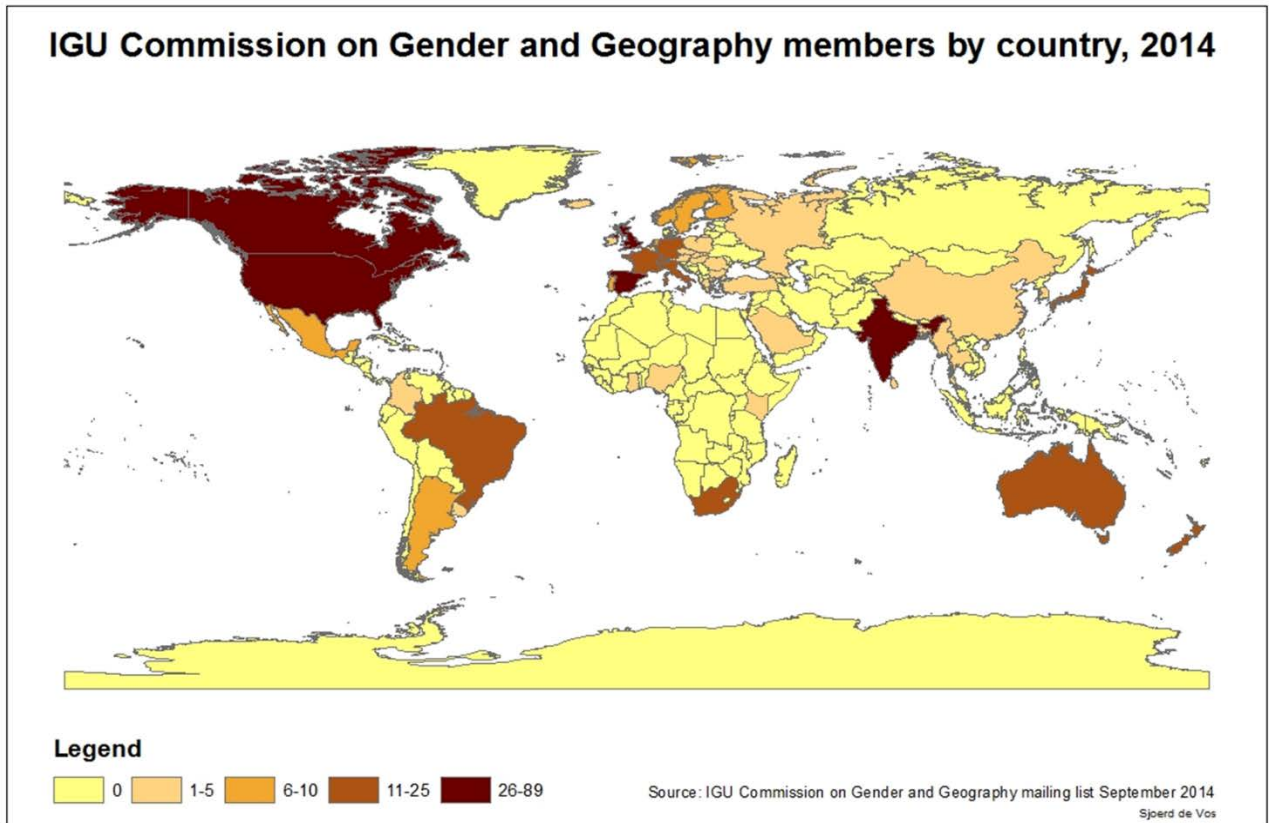
The Commission's Pre-Regional Conference Workshop this year was held at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Warsaw on 16-17 August 2014. The theme was *The Gendering of New Realities: Unequal Challenges and Responsibilities*. Participants from institutions in Brazil, the Czech Republic, Israel, Italy, Japan, Norway, Singapore, and the US, engaged in active discussion of the fifteen papers presented 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). 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 (i) in the way institutional factors frame how gender geographers do research, what they look at, and where they publish, and (ii) on feminist participatory research, especially vis-à-vis marginalised groups and other overlooked gendered issues in society.

The workshop discussions ended with the idea for 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. If you are interested in contributing a report for your country, please email me (at geoslena@nus.edu.sg). The Warsaw workshop was particularly significant because it was the first academic meeting devoted to gender dimension of geographical research held in Poland. I am most grateful to Professors Bogumiła Lisocka-Jaegermann (Institute of Regional and Global Studies) and Mirosław Grochowski (Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management), both of the University of Warsaw, for organizing the event. A full report of the workshop is available on the Gender Commission's website at <http://igugender.socsci.uva.nl/index.html>.

At the main IGU Regional Conference in Krakow, 18-22 August 2014, the Gender Commission organized a total of 12 paper sessions (including three joint sessions with the Commissions of Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change; Political Geography; and Sustainability of Rural Systems), a panel discussion, a poster and a Business Meeting. The panel session on "Surviving and Thriving as a Woman Geographer" was a particularly interactive one, where audience members were invited to participate in small group discussions to review their own experiences and share ways forwards after hearing 4 panelists speak on issues of managing work, "life" and other aspects of dealing with career and professional relationships and advancement in their respective university settings. Please consider presenting a paper in one of the Gender Commission's sessions at the next IGU Regional Conference in Moscow, 17-22 August 2015. Watch out for the Call for Papers!

I am also pleased to share the results of a recent analysis done by Joos Droogleever Fortuijn of where the Commission's almost 680 listserv subscribers are found (excluding the 15% whose locations cannot be identified as they use addresses such as Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo). The largest numbers continue to be from the US (13.2% of all members), 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. The map below shows the distribution by actual number of members.



Finally, I would like to invite you to participate in the Pre-AAG IGU Gender Commission Conference on “Rights to the City: Intersections of Identity and Power” that will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on 19-20 April 2015. The conference is inviting papers focused on the intersections of gender, identity, and power across diverse and contested spaces. For details, please see <http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/conferences/igu-gender2015/index.cfm>.

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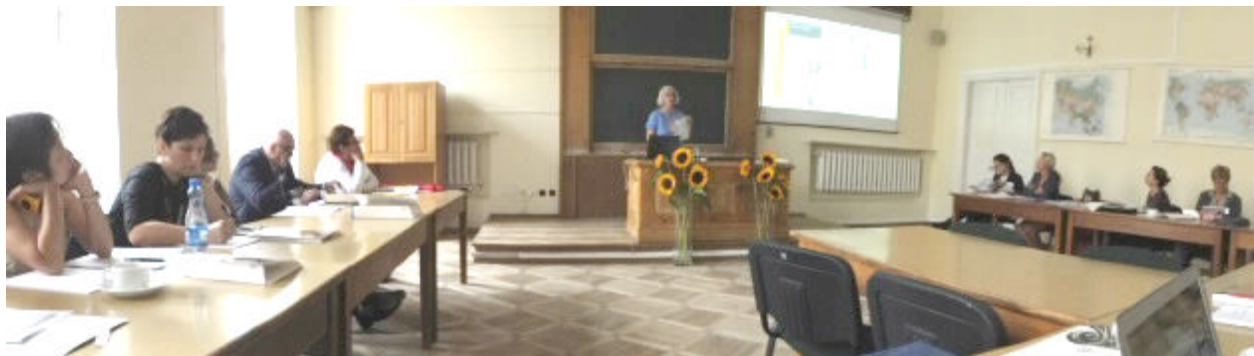
November
2014

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

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



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The **II Latin American Seminar of Geography, Gender and Sexualities** took place at Porto Velho, Rondônia, Brazil between 8-12 October 2014. The event, s coordinated by **Maria das Graças Silva Nascimento Silva** and **Joseli Maria Silva**, was attended by 159 participants.and 83 papers were presented. In addition to the parallel sessions there were three round tables and two discussion group sessions. The opening conference presentation was given by Maria Dolors Garcia-Ramon (Autonomous University of Barcelona) and the clooing by Katherine Browne (University of Brighton). The themes of the roundtables were: 1: “Space, Sexualities and intersectionalities”; 2: “Knowledge, body and intersectionalities; and 3: “Genders in movement: space, race, age and class.”

During the seminar the Iberian and Latin American Network of Geography, Gender and Sexuality (REGGSILA) was publically launched. This network is an enlargement of the Network for the Study of Gender and Geography of Latin America (REGGAL) launched in 2006. REGGSILA aims to make visible the production of knowledge in these geographical and cultural contexts, to foster the development of research in this area of knowledge, to enhance synergies between Iberian and Latin American research centers, and to consolidate the presence of topics related to gender and sexuality in higher education in geography. More information is available at <http://www.reggsila.com/>.

The **Women and Gender Geographies Network (WGGRN)** is a network of researchers across New Zealand that began in August 2013. The network leaders are Dr. Annie Bartos (a.bartos@auckland.ac.nz) and Dr, Karen Fisher of the School of Environment, University of Auckland. Its aims are to strengthen and support the visibility of women geographers and researchers and of the visibility of gender and geography in teaching and research; support and advocate for women geographers and their career development. The Network holds bi-monthly one-hour meetings via access-grid/Scopia with a rotating chair amongst four of the universities in New Zealand. Goals for 2015 include: setting up a mentoring programme with emerging and established researchers in the network, organizing an overnight retreat in the summer 2015, incorporating a reading and study group component to the bi-monthly meetings, and including guest seminars from international/national colleagues on issues related to the WGGRN aims. Since the network began in July 2013, it has hosted approximately ten meetings and organized one roundtable meeting at the New Zealand Geographic Society/Institute of Australian Geographers meeting in Melbourne, July 2014. It has approximately 120 members across New Zealand.

The network encourages sharing brief introspections that will stimulate dialogue on such themes as per mentorships, managing gender imbalances in departments, establishing collaborative research networks, strategies for discussing gendered topics in the classroom/meeting room, prioritizing relationships and care duties, promoting women and gendered research in departments, negotiating difference across Antipodean/Anglo feminisms, engagement with Maori and Aboriginal geographers, and embodying and practicing feminist. The intention is to create a collegial space in which to have an honest and open dialogue about how gender impacts on our research, teaching, and academic careers as geographers.

Congratulations to **Maria Rodó-de-Zárate**, Autonomous University of Barcelona, who received the award of Association of American Geographers Sexuality and Space Specialty Group Graduate Student Paper Competition for her paper now published in *Children's Geographies* "Young lesbians negotiating public space in Manresa: an intersectional approach through places" *Children's Geographies*. DOI: 10.1080/14733285.2013.848741.

NEW BOOKS

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