

# Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU

## Report 2018-2019

*The Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU is a dedicated group of scholars aiming to advance international knowledge of a variety of issues concerning local and regional development. The Commission's activities involve cooperation between scientists representing academic centres from different parts of the world, organizing meetings and expanding its intellectual network through academic conferences, publications, newsletters and its website. The basic mission is to advance international research and knowledge in a variety of domains concerning local and regional development through: 1) the development and dissemination of theoretical, conceptual and methodological frameworks concerning local and regional development, 2) the discussion of wide range of empirical and policy issues, 3) to widen of the scope of the debate on the topics of "local and regional development" in different national and institutional contexts.*

### A. MEMBERSHIP

#### 1. Steering Committee members

(The composition of the new Steering Committee will be agreed at the IGU Congress in Istanbul)

##### 1.1. Chairperson of the Commission

2019, **Jerzy Bański**, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences, 00-818 Warszawa, Twarda str. 51/55, POLAND, +48 602391453, [jbanski@twarda.pan.pl](mailto:jbanski@twarda.pan.pl);

##### 1.2. Vice Chair

2019, **Benjamin Ofori Amoah**, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI 49008-5433 USA, (269) 387-3410, [ben.ofori@wmich.edu](mailto:ben.ofori@wmich.edu);

2020, **Ines Grigorescu**, PhD, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, ROMANIA, [inesgrigorescu@yahoo.com](mailto:inesgrigorescu@yahoo.com);

##### 1.3. Steering Committee Members

2019, **Peter Baklanov** Pacific Institute of Geography, 7 Radio Street, Vladivostok, 690041, RUSSIA, (423) 231-21-59, [pbaklanov@tig.dvo.ru](mailto:pbaklanov@tig.dvo.ru);

2019, **Ton Dietz**, African Studies Centre Leiden, Faculty of Social Sciences, Wassenaarseweg 52, PO Box 9555, 2300 RB Leiden, THE NETHERLANDS, +31 (0)71 527 3376, [dietzaj@ascleiden.nl](mailto:dietzaj@ascleiden.nl);

2019, **Ines Grigorescu**, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, 12 Dimitrie Racovita, 023994 Bucharest, ROMANIA, +40 213135990, [inesgrigorescu@yahoo.com](mailto:inesgrigorescu@yahoo.com);

2019, **B. Srinagesh** Department of Geography, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Tarnaka, Hyderabad 500007, INDIA, +(91)-40-27017192, [geosri74@gmail.com](mailto:geosri74@gmail.com);

2019-2020, **Michael Sofer** (honorary member), Department of Geography and Environment, Faculty of Social Sciences, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, 52900, ISRAEL, +972-3-531-8773, [soferm1@mail.biu.ac.il](mailto:soferm1@mail.biu.ac.il);

2019-2020, **Atsushi Taira**, Faculty of Education, Kagawa University, Saiwai-cho 1-1, Takamatsu, Kagawa, 760-8522, Japan, +81-87-832-1405, JAPAN, [taira@ed.kagawa-u.ac.jp](mailto:taira@ed.kagawa-u.ac.jp);

2019-2020, **Eberhard Weber**, School of Geography, Earth Science and Environment, The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, FIJI, (+679) 323 2542, [weber\\_e@usp.ac.fj](mailto:weber_e@usp.ac.fj);

2019-2020, **Carmen Vazquez Varela**, Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, University de Castilla-La Mancha, Avda. de los Alfares, 44 – 16002 Cuenca, ESPANIA, +34 969179100, [Carmen.Vazquez@uclm.es](mailto:Carmen.Vazquez@uclm.es);

2020, **Ashley Gunter**, Professor, Department of Geography, University of South Africa, SOUTH AFRICA, [Gunteaw@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Gunteaw@unisa.ac.za);

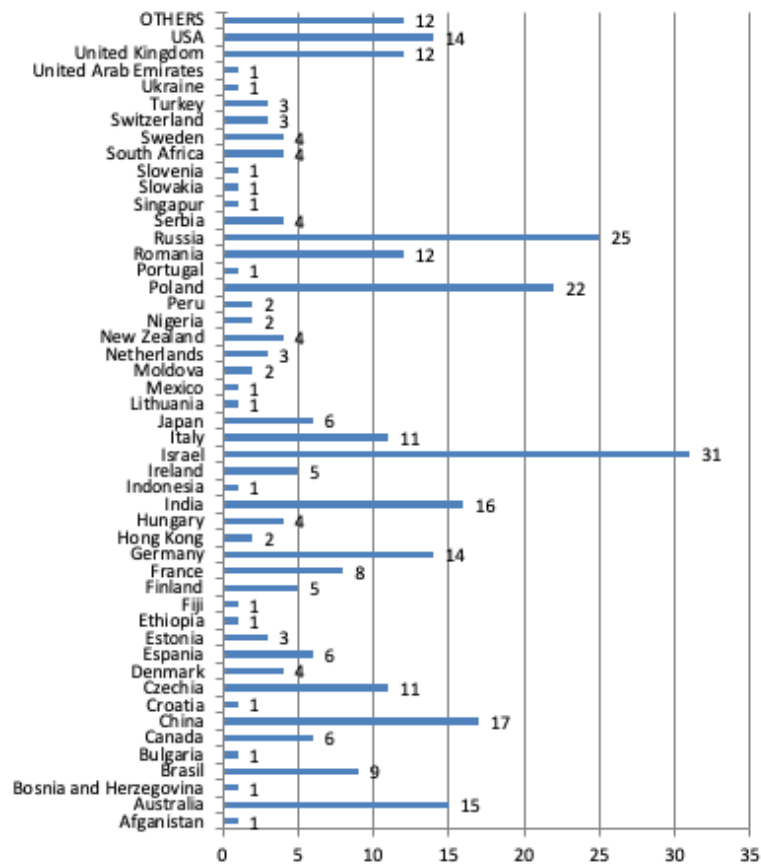
2020, **Boian Koulov**, PhD, National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy, and Geography, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, BULGARIA, [bkoulov@gmail.com](mailto:bkoulov@gmail.com)

2020, **Benjamin Ofori-Amoah**, Professor, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, USA, [ben.ofori@wmich.edu](mailto:ben.ofori@wmich.edu);

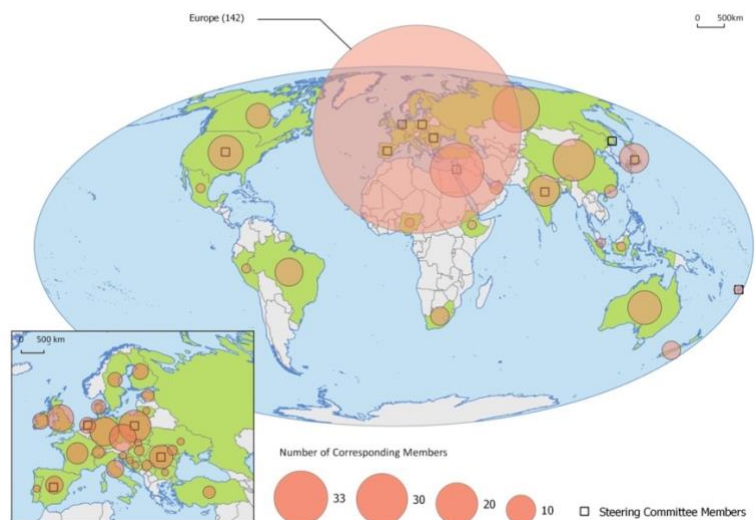
2020, **Tony Sorensen**, Professor, University of New England, AUSTRALIA, [Tony.Sorensen@une.edu.au](mailto:Tony.Sorensen@une.edu.au);

## 2. Corresponding Members

Currently, the Commission on Local and Regional Development counts a total of 316 members from 47 countries, plus 16 members (e-mail address does not allow identification of the country). However, there are far fewer active members. The head of the committee estimates that there are about 40-50 active members (participating in the tasks of the Commission). Unfortunately, the remaining members are only a statistical supplement. It should indicate the unfavorable phenomenon of the small number of members from Africa and South America.



Number of Corresponding Members by country, 2018



Spatial location of Corresponding Members and Steering Committee Members

## B. MEETINGS

### 1. Meetings organized during the period 2019-2020

Date	Title	Place	Number of sessions	Number of papers	Number of participants
June 25 – July 3, 2019	<i>Annual meeting of IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development</i> <sup>1</sup>	Suva, FIJI	5	25	40
September 23-26, 2019	<i>IGU Thematic Conference</i> <sup>2</sup>	Koper, SLOVENIA	13	42	60
June 27-28, 2020	<i>IGU India, Implications of Covid-19 on Local and Regional Sustainable Development – A Glocal Perspective</i>	e-conference			

<sup>1</sup>Conference organized by University of South Pacific in Suva, Fiji and Commission.

<sup>2</sup>Conference organized by University Primorska and IGU Commissions: Land Use Land Cover Change, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional Development, Mediterranean Basin, Land Degradation and Desertification.

### 2. A brief summary of the topics addressed at meetings and the findings

#### Meeting of IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development, FIJI

The conference was organized by the Commission on Local and Regional Development, IGU and the University of South Pacific in Suva. It took place in two stages: the first stage of the conference entitled *Development challenges in rural and urban areas* consisted of papers delivered by 23 speakers representing 11 countries. The session took place on 25-28 June and was preceded by a meeting of Commission members and key organisers on 24 June. The papers were devoted to education in rural areas, challenges of rural development in the face of climate change, tourism, spatial planning and local and regional resources. The second stage of the conference (29 June - 3 July 2019) was field studies in Nalotu on Kadavu Island. The participants of the studies had several meetings with the local people and authorities, especially with farmers, during which they got acquainted with the problems of functioning of peripherally located villages and the methods of land cultivation and types of crops. During their stay, the participants visited the local school and the neighboring hills where cassava and kava are grown.



Fot. Suva – CLRD IGU conference participants

### Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscape - IGU Thematic Conference, SLOVENIA

The conference was consisted of 13 thematic sessions, plenary sessions and 5 thematic field studies. The subject matter of the papers concerned primarily changes in land use and landscape and the resulting consequences. The papers concerned various spatial scales and methodological issues. The conference drew attention to the rapid changes in the rural landscape caused by human activity, including the impact of global climate change. However, public awareness of this issue is growing and there are increasing efforts to protect the landscape and traditional land use patterns and to increase biodiversity. During the meeting of the committee, I discussed its plans related to the organization of future conference meetings and the publication of *Challenges of the local and regional development*.

### 3. The plan of the future meetings

Date	Type of meeting	Place	Organizer
August 2021	Commission annual meeting	Bulgaria, Sofia (or Varna),	National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy, and Geography, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU
August 2021	34 IGU Congress; Commission session and technical meeting	Turkey, Istanbul	IGU and Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU
2022	Commission annual meeting	South Africa, Pretoria	University of South Africa, Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU
2023	Commission annual meeting	Peru (must be confirmed)	Universidad Católica del Peru, the Commission on Local and Regional Development.

## C. NETWORKING

### 1. Collaboration with IGU commissions

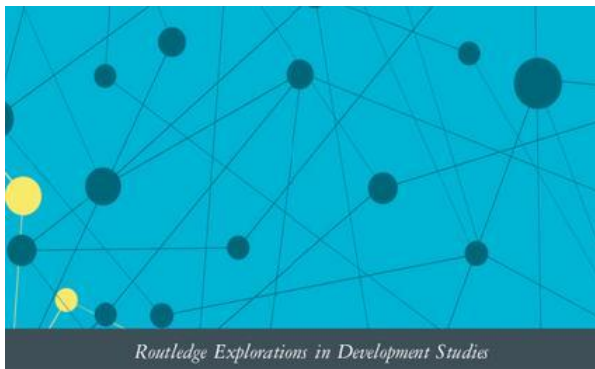
- Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change (co-organization IGU Thematic Conference, 24-26 September 2019, Koper, SLOVENIA, jointly with Commissions: Biogeography and Biodiversity, Land Use and Land Cover Change, Mediterranean Basin, Land Degradation and Desertification).
- Commission on Geography of Governance (participation International Conference, *Local and Urban Governance: Trends, Challenges and Innovations in a Globalizing World*, University of Cabo Verde, Praia, 4-7 September 2019).
- Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering (participation, 3 International Conference of the International Geographical Union Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering, *Rethinking the Impact of Urbanization on Agriculture and Land Use*, 22-24 October 2019, Bogor, Indonesia).
- Commission on Marginalization, Localization, and Regional and Local Responses (bilateral cooperation)

### 2. Other collaboration

Selected institutions and bodies cooperating with the commission during the period 2019-2020: The University of the South Pacific (FIJI), Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences (POLAND), National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy, and Geography, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BULGARIA), Mendel University (CZECHIA), University Primorska (SLOVENIA), India Geographical Society, Routledge Publishing House.



## D. PUBLICATIONS



### DILEMMAS OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Edited by  
Jerzy Bański



Bański J. (ed.), 2020, *Dilemmas of regional and local development*, Routledge, London-New York.

<https://www.routledge.com/Dilemmas-of-Regional-and-Local-Development/Banski/p/book/9781138359154>

The book's subject matter covers theoretical, methodological and practical groups of problems, which are discussed in two separate parts. The first part of the book (*Development Concepts and Planning*) concentrates on the basics of regional and local development planning, including theoretical solutions and approaches to development policies, as well as methodological aspects. Whereas the second part (*Development Challenges and Opportunities*) has an applicative character, since it presents practical aspects of problems and challenges associated with regional or local development, as well as providing instruments for regional planning.

The authors of the book are mainly committee members: T. Sorensen (AUSTRALIA), J. Bański (POLAND), G. Cotella and E. Vitale Brovarone (ITALY), T. Nurlambang (INDONESIA), B. Ofori-Amoah (USA), M. Mazur and D. Mazurek (POLAND), C. Vázquez-Varela and J. M. Martínez-Navarro (SPAIN), P. Elias (NIGERIA), P. Churski, B. Konecka-Szydłowska, T. Herodowicz, R. Perdał (POLAND), B. Mitrică, I. Grigorescu, R. Săgeată, I. Mocanu, M. Dumitrașcu

(ROMANIA), A. Gunter (SOUTH AFRICA), A. Taira (JAPAN), B. Srinagesh (INDIA), M. Sofer and N. Ganayem (ISRAEL).

#### **Book submitted for publication: Bański J. (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Small Towns***

The book is devoted to the role and functions of small towns in the local development of areas representing different socio-economic categories and located in countries with different levels of development and economic systems. Particular attention is paid to issues: theoretical background and research methodology, functional structure of small towns and their role in the urban system, relations between small towns and rural areas and the challenges of spatial planning in the context of shaping the development of small towns. The thematic scope of the book is cover theoretical, methodical and practical issues related to small towns and rural development. However, the spatial scope has a very wide dimension because it takes into account the subject of small towns issues in 25 countries. The authors of the book are mainly committee members.

#### **SECTION 1. SMALL TOWNS – THEORETICAL BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH ISSUES**

J. BAŃSKI (POLAND) - *The functions and local linkages of small towns – a review of selected classifications and approaches to research;*

E. KORCELLI-OLEJNICZAK (POLAND) - *Small towns in settlement systems: a return to the foreground?*

B. OFORI-AMOAH (USA) - *Small Towns. Theoretical Background and Research Issues - Perspectives from the United States;*

Ch. DEMAZIÈRE (FRANCE) - *Small towns – theoretical background and research issues. Exploring the diversity of small towns in France;*

C. VÁZQUEZ-VARELA, J. M. MARTÍNEZ-NAVARRO (SPAIN) - *Spanish Small towns: evolution, functional structure, and characterization;*

M. ALTANBAGANA, B. SOLONGO, B. MUNGUNCHIMEG (MONGOLIA) - *Determining villages status and their economic functions: The Case of Mongolia;*

#### **SECTION 2. THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF SMALL TOWNS IN SCOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

I. IANOS (ROMANIA) - *The small Romanian towns – from creative destruction to destructive creation and back?*

M. AMADO, F. POGGI (PORTUGAL) - *From informal to formal: towards the Sustainable Transformation of Small Towns in Africa;*

A. TAIRA (JAPAN) - *Small but resilient: A case study of the town of Utazu, Kagawa, Japan;*

J. BAŃSKI, W. KAMIŃSKA, M. MULARCZYK (POLAND) - *The natural and migration movements versus population ageing in Poland's small towns;*

L. NOVOTNÝ, M. KULLA, J. NESTOROVÁ-DICKÁ, L. PREGI, S. CSACHOVÁ (SLOVAKIA) - *Performance of small towns in economically lagging region: A case study of the Spiš region, Slovakia;*

F. POGGI, A. FIRMINO, M. AMADO (PORTUGAL) - *Small towns in the Energy Transition Era: local drivers for Climate Change adaptation?*

B. KOULOV, Ch. MLADENOV (BULGARIA) - *Contemporary Status of Small Towns in Bulgaria: Functions and Role in the Development of Rural Regions;*

### **SECTION 3. SMALL TOWNS IN RURAL SPACE**

M. SOFER, L. APPLEBAUM, I. AMIT-COHEN, N. COHEN, I. SHMUEL, Y. SHAUL (ISRAEL) - *Perspective on Urban-Rural Relations in Israel's Periphery;*

I. KRISTENSEN, E. SLÄTMO (SWEDEN) - *Urban-rural linkages: an inquiry into second-home tourism in the Nordics;*

K. P. SCHUMACHER, K. M. BORN (GERMANY) - *New rural-urban relationships of small towns in north-western Germany;*

W. LEIMGRUBER (SWITZERLAND) - *Small regional centres at the periphery of Switzerland: Porrentruy and Brig-Glis;*

A. VAISHAR, J. ZAPLETALOVA (CZECHIA) - *Small towns in rural space - the case of Czechia;*

A. COPUS (UK) - *Urban Growth Engines or Relational Proximity? An assessment of enterprise population and business demography indicators in the context of rural and small-town Scotland;*

E. NEL (NEW ZEALAND) - *The role of farmers in small town community development in an age of austerity: reflections from Australasia;*

R. MCAREAVEY (UK) - *Agri-food workers: transnational connections in small towns and rural areas.*

### **SECTION 4. THE SMALL TOWNS PLANNING CHALLENGES**

G. COTELLA, E. BERISHA (ITALY) - *Inter-municipal spatial planning as a tool to prevent small towns' competition. The case of the Emilia-Romagna Region;*

E. MARUNIAK, L. RUDENKO, S. LISOVSKYI, O. DRONOVA, A. MOZGOVYI (UKRAINE) - *Ukrainian small cities in the perspective of sustainable spatial planning;*

A. SORENSEN (AUSTRALIA) - *Small Town Survival in Rural Australia: A New England Case Study;*

S. TSHABALALA, A. GUNTER (SOUTH AFRICA) - *Technologies of Government and Policy implementation in Small Towns Economic Development Plans in Mpumalanga South Africa;*

B. OFORI-AMOAHA (USA) - *Small Towns in Planning System: The Experience of the United States;*

E. WEBER (FIJI), C. KOTO (MARSHALL ISLANDS) - *Disturbing the creation of a spatial system – Outside intervention and urbanization in the Republic of the Marshall Islands;*

A. SABOGAL DUNIN BORKOWSKA (PERU) - *Challenges of local planning in Peruvian small towns on example of Alexander von Humboldt town in the Amazonian basin;*

### **URL of the Commission's website.**

Website: <http://igu-clrd.igipz.pan.pl/home.html>



The majority of the publications by Commission are available on webpage.

### **E. ARCHIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Copies of all materials and publications sent to the IGU Secretary General.

### **F. PRODUCTIVE USE OF PREVIOUS IGU GRANT**

In the period 2019-2020, the Commission did not use IGU grants. However, we support applications by young scientists and scientists representing 'low-income countries' for financial support for participation in international conferences. It is also a constant practice to differentiate the registration costs of our Commission's conferences, which is promoted by the above-mentioned groups of members.