

International Call

UGI Thematic Conference 2025

"Diverse Geographies of Peace, Environmental Impacts, Territorial Conflicts, and War in the Contemporary World"

Santa Marta, Colombia, October 27 to November 1, 2025

The International Geographical Union (IGU), in collaboration with the National Committee of Colombia and the Commission on Latin American and Caribbean Studies (C20.30), invites geographers and the international scientific community to participate in the UGI Thematic Conference 2025. The event will take place in Santa Marta, Colombia, under the central theme: "Diverse Geographies of Peace, Environmental Impacts, Territorial Conflicts, and War in the Contemporary World."

General Organizing Committee

- **Luis Carlos Jiménez Reyes** National University of Colombia, La Paz Campus President, National Committee of Colombia, IGU
- **Sairi Piñeros** National University of Colombia, La Paz Campus Chair, Commission on Latin American and Caribbean Studies, IGU Vice President, National Committee of Colombia, IGU

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- Instituto Colombiano Alemán para la paz – CAPAZ
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- Instituto Geográfico "Agustín Codazzi"
- Grupo de investigación "Estudios sobre la problemática urbano regional de Colombia", GEORBE - UNAL
- Centro de Pensamiento "Río Magdalena", Universidad Nacional de Colombia

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- Universidad Externado de Colombia
- Universidad Nacional de Colombia
- Universidad de Caldas
- Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia
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Motivation

Globally and within nations and subnational territories, tensions and conflicts are common. These spaces are often historically defined by how tensions and conflicts were resolved. In today’s world, new tensions and conflicts persist or emerge, involving multiple interests, as well as individuals and communities affected by confrontations.

Santa Marta, the oldest city on the South American Caribbean coast, celebrates its 500th anniversary in 2025. This city symbolizes resilience and transformation, situated between the majestic Caribbean Sea and the towering peaks of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. It has witnessed stories of struggle and reconciliation, serving as a live laboratory for peace and sustainability. In this unique setting of beauty and complexity, participants will explore the geographies of peace, environmental impacts, territorial conflicts, and war in the contemporary world.

The UGI Thematic Conference 2025 aims to unite geographers, social scientists, and communities in reflecting on the crucial role of territories in conflict and reconciliation dynamics. Through interdisciplinary dialogue that integrates local knowledge and scientific expertise, the conference will amplify marginalized voices, outline paths to environmental sustainability, and rethink human-territory connections. Activities will include presentations, thematic sessions, field activities, and

intercultural dialogues, fostering a deeper understanding of how geographies can illuminate paths toward lasting peace.

Event Objectives

- To explore contemporary geographies of peace and conflict through an interdisciplinary and global lens, with a focus on Latin America.
- To analyze the territorial dynamics of armed conflicts and illegal economies and their impact on communities, the environment, and reconciliation processes.
- To reflect on transitional justice experiences and challenges in territorial planning and community projects within post-conflict frameworks.
- To promote dialogue among academics, local communities, and institutions to foster mutual understanding of territories as spaces of transformation.

Epistemological Directions

The event will embrace a critical approach to address questions such as:

- How can geographies explain the dynamics of conflict and peace?
- What role do local and ethnic communities play in conflict resolution?
- How can environmental dimensions be integrated into reconciliation policies and sustainable development?

This analysis invites contributions from geography, sociology, anthropology, environmental sciences, and other disciplines.

Participants and Event Format

Target audience:

- Academics in geography and related disciplines.
- Representatives of local communities affected by conflicts.
- Policymakers and decision-makers addressing contemporary territorial challenges.
- Directors and professionals from Colombian state institutions focused on these issues.

Program highlights:

- Keynote speeches by renowned international scholars.
- Parallel thematic sessions and discussion panels.
- Innovative presentations such as posters.
- Field activities in iconic areas like Tayrona National Park and the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Thematic Sessions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political geographies of contemporary territorial conflicts• Illegal Economies and Their Geographies.• Post-conflict, Transitional justice and territorial planning |
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- War, Peace, and nature: between conflicts and environmental sustainability
- Everyday peace, diversity of voices and intersectional approaches in peacebuilding
- Urbanization, Violence and Conflict
- Geographic education for the transformation of conflicts and the expansion of interdependence
- The Spatiality of Peace: Practices, Conceptions, and Justices in Action
- Population geographies: migrations, displacements and refugees
- Physical geographies, adaptation and climate change
- Tourism, peace and global changes

Open Call: Deadlines and Costs

Proposals for presentations, posters, and collaborative activities are welcome. Submissions can be in Spanish, English, Portuguese, or French.

- Registration opens: March 1, 2025
- Submission of participation summaries: March 1, 2025
- Responses to submissions: March 30, 2025
- Early registration payment: May 1, 2025
- Late registration payment: June 30, 2025

Registration costs

Group	Classification	Per person cost
International Speakers (Europe, USA, Australia, New Zealand, China)	Early birds, up to 01 May 2025	200 USD
	Late registration, up to 15 September 2025	250 USD
International Speakers (Latin America, Africa, India)	Early birds, up to 01 May 2025	120 USD
	Late registration, up to 15 September 2025	150 USD
Latin American master's and doctoral students (Speakers)	Early birds, up to 01 June 2025	80 USD
	Late registration, up to 15 September 2025	100 USD
Student groups (minimum 20)	Registration before 15 September 2025	50 USD

For more information, contact:

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We look forward to welcoming you in Santa Marta to collaboratively build reflections and pathways toward a geography committed to peace and territorial justice.

Comisiones estudio y Comités nacionales UGI que apoyan el evento (<https://igu-online.org/organization/commissions/>)

Comisión “Local and Regional Development”

Chair, Ines Grigorescu, Ph.D.

Romania

Comisión “Dynamics of Economic Spaces”

Chair, Professor Eva Kiss

Hungary

Comisión “Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses”

Chair, Prof. Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš

Croatia

Comisión “Latin American and Caribbean Studies”

Chair, Professor Sairi Piñeros

Colombia

Comisión “Political Geography”

Co-chair, Professor Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary

Co-chair: Professor Corey Johnson,

Corey Johnson, Ph.D.

USA

Comisión “Land Use and Land Cover Change”

Chair, Professor Monica Ștefania Dumitrașcu,

Romania

Comisión “Population Geography”

Chair, Professor Darren Smith,

Reino Unido

Switzerland's National Committee for the International Geographical Union (IGU)

Chair Dr. Yvonne Riaño

Switzerland

Colombia National Committee - UGI

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Raquel Pulgarín Silva	Activos
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Johan Andrés Avendaño Arias	Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi
Sociedad geográfica de Colombia	Sociedad geográfica de Colombia
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Jairo Durango Vertel	Universidad de Córdoba
Oscar Puerta	Universidad de Córdoba

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Departamento de Geografía	Universidad de Nariño
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