

International Geographical Union

Young and Early Career Geographers Taskforce

TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers' (IGU-YECG) was launched on the 22nd August 2016 at the 33rd International Geographical Congress in Beijing, China with a vision of empowering and nurturing future leaders in Geography. The primary aims of the Task Force are to promote career development for early career Geographers through mentoring, training and sharing; stimulate interdisciplinary, international and inter-generational research conversations between Geographers and acknowledge and elevate the achievements of early career geographers in the Global North and South.

A. Membership

Steering Committee

Chair

Dr. Komali Yenneti

School of Architecture and Built Environment, University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Email: komalirani.y@gmail.com

Secretary and Treasurer

Dr. Gaurav Sikka

University P.G. Department of Geography, L.N. Mithila University, Bihar (India)

Email: gauravsikkageo@gmail.com

Full Members

- **Dr. Gabriela Adina Morosanu**, Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy/University of Bucharest, Bucharest Romania.
- **Dr. Melgris José Becerra Ruíz**, Working Group on Geographical Issues (GTAG-Venezuela), Universidade Federal do Pará (UFPA), Brazil
- **Ms. Sinenhlanhla Memela**, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Mr. Rui Zhu**, Department of Geography, University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), USA

Task Force Membership

The Task Force has a listserv at geo-iguyecg@listserv.wvu.edu and a Facebook group to update geographers about our activities and circulating relevant information. The total members of the Task Force on the listserv are 205 and the Facebook are about 1000 (as of 31st December 2021).

B. Meetings

a. Meetings organized with basic details

I. 34th International Geographical Congress (Postponed) 2021

Date: 17-20 August 2021 Host: Istanbul University, Turkey

IGU-YECG is organizing following events:

- Young and Early Career Geographers Paper Sessions and Award Competition: Jointly sponsored and organized by IGU-YECG and International Association of Young Geographers (IAYG). Paper award of USD 200 each.
- iGEO Poster Evaluation

II. 2021 Biannual conference of Society of South African Geographers and the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists

Date: 6-10 September, 2021

Place: Zoom Platform

Hosted By: Rhodes University, South Africa

III. International Workshop on Geography and Sustainability Scientific session on geography and sustainability for young and early-career researchers,

Date: 23-24 November 2021,

Hosted by Beijing Normal University and Geographical Society of China

IV. XVIII Meeting of Geographies of Latin America (EGAL) and the VIII National Congress of Geography of Public Universities of the Argentine Republic

Date: November 30 to December 4, 2021

Place: Virtual mode

Hosted by the Department of Geography - Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities (FFyH) - Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (UNC) and Geography Network of Argentine Public Universities.

V. 1st Workshop of Asian Young Geographers

Date: 18-19 December 2021

Organized by Young Geographer Working Group of Asian Geographical Association in collaboration with IGU-YECG

b. Brief Summary of the Meetings

34th International Geographical Congress (Postponed) 2021

Date: 17-20 August 2021 Host: Istanbul University, Turkey

Young and Early Career Geographers Paper Sessions and IGUYECG-IAYG Best Paper Award Competition was jointly sponsored and organized by IGU-YECG and International Association of Young Geographers (IAYG). Virtual presentations were made by all the participants and jury evaluated all the papers. Ms. Patricia Sayuri Silvestre Matsumoto from Adolfo Lutz Institute - Central, São Paulo - São Paulo, Brazil was selected by the jury for the IGUYECG-IAYG Best Paper Award. She received a cash award of USD 200 and a certificate of merit. Her recorded presentation is available at the link below:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5isxhchtyg144r8/AABOePoOpCJUkr3kqIEgYtOta?dl=0&preview=1550_PatriciaMatsumoto.mp4






Visceral leishmaniasis and poverty in a highly-endemic area of São Paulo State, Brazil

Dr. Patricia Sayuri Silvestre Matsumoto
Dr. Raul Borges Guimarães
Dr. José Eduardo Tolezano

Parasitology Center, Adolfo Lutz Institute (IAL), São Paulo, Brazil



www.igu2021.org

2021 Biannual conference of Society of South African Geographers and the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists

Date: 6-10 September, 2021 Hosted By: Rhodes University

IGU's Young and Early Career Geographers' Taskforce (IGU-YECG) has been championing the Best Paper Award for Early Career Researchers and encouraging national committees to do it. The aim is to recognize, celebrate and encourage young and early careers to start academic writing. Young scholars were invited to submitted papers on the theme of the conference. Society of South African Geographers (SSAG) and Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG) jointly took the initiative and organized Best paper award in collaboration with IGU-YECG during the Society of South African Geographers and the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists 2021 biannual conference, hosted by Rhodes University on 8th September 2021.

Students and new professionals shared their projects, where the best two papers received certificates and monetary award (1st prize: R 2050; 2nd prize: R 1000)

First prize was bagged by Elizabeth M. Rudolph, David W. Hedding and Werner Nel for their paper titled 'A spatial reconstruction of Marion Island's palaeo-ice extent'

IGU-YECG gave a financial support of R1 017,24 for this award.

Conference summary is available at: <https://saageomorph.wixsite.com/saag/conf2021>

International Workshop on Geography and Sustainability: Scientific session on geography and sustainability for young and early-career researchers

Date: 23-24 November 2021,

Hosted by Beijing Normal University and Geographical Society of China

The Scientific session on geography and sustainability for young and early-career researchers was held on November 23, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Gabriela Morosanu (steering committee member of IGU-YECG Taskforce and Chair of IGU YECG_GeoSus working group) and Dr. Xutong Wu, Co-Chair of IGU YECG_GeoSus working group). Participants from Beijing Normal University, University of Padova, Nanjing University, Institute of Geography the Romanian Academy, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography of NAS of Ukraine, Hong Kong Baptist University,

and China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), including teachers, doctors and masters participated in the session.

The scientific papers presented approached a large number of geographic topics related to sustainability, from a) climate, such as change of trends of rainfall erosivity in the Yellow River Basin, or stochastic simulation of non-stationary daily maximum and minimum temperature using multisite weather generators; b) remote sensing and water resources ; c) mountain landscapes sustainable management; d) the impact of land use changes in ecologically fragile areas of the Yellow River Basin on poverty, f) spatio-temporal patterns and driving mechanisms of rural settlements in Tianjin Metropolitan Area, China; g) the impact of sand mining on sustainable river management h) solar park models towards low-carbon transition; i) protected areas management as a tool in promoting geography for sustainability; j) the interaction and non-linear effect of meteorological variables, air pollutants and socioeconomic aspects on COVID-19 transmission; k) the vegetation dynamics and its resistance and resilience to different intensities of climatic events, or l) the interaction mechanism between urban expansion and ecological resilience in Wuhan.

At the end of the meeting, four best speakers were selected, namely Eugenio Straffelini, Md. Lokman Hossain, Mengyao Han, and Yi Han, respectively. This conference had a strong atmosphere for academic exchanges, with enthusiastic discussions, thus playing an active role in promoting communications among young and early-career researchers and deepening sustainable development research.

XVIII Meeting of Geographies of Latin America (EGAL) and the VIII National Congress of Geography of Public Universities of the Argentine Republic

Date: November 30 to December 4, 2021

Place: Virtual mode

Hosted by the Department of Geography - Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities (FFyH) - Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (UNC) and Geography Network of Argentine Public Universities.

The session was held on two days: December 1 and December 2, 2021, through the Jitsi platform. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Melgris José Becerra (steering committee member of YECG Taskforce) and Dr. Ismael Díaz, Professor at Universidad de la República (Uruguay) and Dr. Aleida Azamar Alonso, Professor at Universidad Nacional Autónoma Metropolitana (Mexico). Participants are from Universidad Pedagógica Nacional (Colombia), Universidade Federal do Pará (Brazil), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico), Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia), Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Mexico), Universidad de la República (Uruguay), Universidade Federal de Uberlândia (Brazil), Universidade Federal de São Paulo (Brazil), El Colegio de Michoacán (Mexico), Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (Argentina), Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Peru), Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal), Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo (Mexico). The topics addressed by the speakers ranged from a) Extractivism in Colombia, resistance for water; b) Resistance in water management in Uruguay; c) The water budget in the northern region of Brazil; d) Venezuelan Amazonia as an expression of commodified space; e) Multiple crises and models of dispossession in Mexico; f) Regions of environmental emergency in Mexico; g) Geometries of power and extractive projects by fracking in Mexico; h) Multiple actors and territorial conflicts in Mexico; i) Territorial occupation: Wind energy exploitation in Mexico; j) Indigenous community defense against agribusiness; k) Indigenous women deterritorialization and resistance to the Persea americana industry in Mexico; l) Bioceanic Corridor and the new Argentina-China dependence; m) Territorial reconfiguration in a region of Colombia; n) Memories and struggles for resistance in Andalgalá, Argentina; o) From territory to deterritorialization: Collective rural resettlement built by the Belo Monte hydroelectric power

plant; p) The commodification of nature and the agrarian question; q) Cellulose industry, land ownership and territorial conflicts in the southern cone of Latin America; r) Inhabiting the rural: New forms of exclusion; s) The territorialization of corporations and land grabbing in Uruguay; t) Cartography, traces and territorialities of the paramilitary group Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia; u) Overlapping territorialities in the Colombian Catatumbo; v) Local fishing activity in the face of extractivism in Argentina; w) Capital offensives, resistance and social re-appropriation of nature; x) Extreme events in Argentina: Information for agricultural risk management; y) Good living in territories marked by dispossession and sacrifice. These meetings allowed an interaction between different young Latin American Spanish and Portuguese-speaking geographers to create information exchange networks resulting from the affinity of common themes, which will allow in the future a greater amount of research led by young geographers and early careers.

1st First Asian Young Geographers Workshop

Date: 18-19 December 2021

Organized by Young Geographer Working Group of Asian Geographical Association in collaboration with IGU-YECG

On December 18th–19th, 2021, the First Asian Young Geographers Workshop was held online. Initiated by the Young Geographers Working Group of the Asian Geographical Association (AGA-YGWG), the workshop was jointly organized by AGA-YGWG, Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force of the International Geographical Union (IGU-YECG) and Working Committee for Young Geographers of the Geographical Society of China (GSC- WGYG). The workshop, themed "Young Geographers' Response to Challenges in Asia", drew around 600 participants from 30 countries and regions globally, and 178 candidates were selected to deliver oral presentations in 14 sessions covering a variety of topics.



The First Asian Young Geographers Workshop (virtual)

On the morning of the 18th, Prof. Min Chen, Chair of the AGA-YGWG, presided over the opening ceremony. Prof. Chul Sue Hwang (Vice President of the AGA, President of the Korean Geographical Society), Dr. Komali Yenneti (Chair of the IGU-YECG), and Dr. Zhuo Wu (Vice

Secretary General of GSC-WGYG) presented welcome speeches on behalf of the three organizers respectively. During the two-day online event, the keynotes in this workshop were given by 7 distinguished geographers, including Prof. Yukio Himiyama (Past President of the IGU), Prof. Michael Meadows (President of the IGU), Prof. Suresh Chand Rai (Vice President of the AGA and Secretary General of the National Association of Geographers, India), Prof. Safdar Ali Shirazi (President of the Pakistan Geographical Association), Prof. Anthony Yeh (Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor of the University of Hong Kong), Prof. Mei-po Kwan (Chinese University of Hong Kong), and Prof. Shuli Niu (Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences). Prof. Li He, Secretary General of AGA-YGWG concluded the closing ceremony of this workshop on the afternoon of 19th, and the winners of the Excellent Paper Awards were announced by Prof. Guoyou Zhang (Vice President and Secretary General of the GSC). The workshop was initiated to provide a new platform for young geographers in Asia and throughout the world to share, discuss, and collaborate on their most recent research to address current problems.

Inputs provided by Xuanzi Zhang, Min Chen, The Asian Geographical Association

c. Planned Meetings for 2022

I. IGU Paris 2022 – The Centennial Congress

Date: 18th – 22nd July 2022 Host: University of Paris and French Geographical Society
IGU-YECCG is organizing following events:

- Young and Early Career Geographers Paper Sessions and Award Competition: Jointly sponsored and organized by IGU-YECCG and International Association of Young Geographers (IAYG). One ECR award of USD 200 will be supported by IAYG.
- IGU-YECCG Networking Event and Grant Writing Master Class
- IGU-YECCG and IGU YECCG_GeoSUS session on sustainable water management

II. IGU Thematic Conference on “Advances in Earth, Environment and Space Sciences” IGU-YECCG Collaboration and Endorsed

Date: November 24th -25th, 2022 Host: Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh, India.

C. Networking

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 between the US based International Association of Young Geographers (IAYG) and IGU-YECCG, the financial support was provided to best paper ECR award organized in IGU-YECCG session at 34th IGC Istanbul 2021.

Young and Early Career Geographers Working Group on Geography and Sustainability (IGU YECCG_GeoSus)

IGU-YECCG collaborated with IGU Commission on Geography for Future Earth and established a Young and Early Career Geographers Working Group on Geography and Sustainability (IGU YECCG_GeoSus).

This working group is an extension of IGUYECCG and aims at complementing the activities of IGUYECCG in the areas of sustainability.

The mission of YECG-GeoSus is to promote research and education in sustainable development for young and early career geographers. While the working group complements the YECG Taskforce in the areas of sustainability, it aims at promoting, coordinating and supporting geographic research and education in an integrated and sustainable perspective.

The working group has the following structure:

- Governing Council (the main decision-making body of the YECG-GeoSus), consisting of members from GFE and YECG (Dr. Komali Yenneti, Prof. Wenwu Zhao)
- Advisory committee, constituted by senior geographers and academic mentors who can help young and early career geographers, IGU YECG Committee Members, IGU-GFE Members, IGU senior professors; and other academics.
- Chairs - Dr. Moroşanu Gabriela Adina (Steering Committee Member, IGU-YECG, Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy) & Dr. Xutong Wu (Faculty of Geographical Science, Beijing Normal University)
- Secretariat - Yiran Du - (Editorial office of Geography and Sustainability Journal)
- Full members, chosen via a call for applications in the period April – August 2021. They are young and early career geographers (Ph.D. students and post-Ph.D. within six after years obtaining the title of PhD) with diverse educational backgrounds, research areas, gender orientations, and geographical origins). Two types of members were selected: a) **Core members** (Mengyao Han, Alexis Alamel, Sandamali Wijeratne, Eugenio Straffellini); and b) Regular **Committee Members** (Jianxiao Liu, Youjia Liang, Sujayita Bhattacharjee, Oluwasegun Adetunde, Radmila Jovanović.

IGU YECG_GEOSUS working group was officially launched during the International Geographic Congress, held in Istanbul (virtually), between 16 and 20 August 2021. Up to now, the internal organization has been done and one online meeting was organized in October 2021.

D. Publications

a. A **special IGU-YECG issue** is published with *Geography, Environment and Sustainability*, the official journal of Russian Geographical Society. Guest editors for the issue are Gaurav Sikka, Komali Yenneti, R.B. Singh and V. Tikunov.

IGU-YECG Special Issue on Geospatiality and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) , Vol. 14, No. 1, <https://ges.rgo.ru/jour/issue/view/52/showToc>

An editorial paper was published in this special issue, which is cited as Sikka G., Yenneti K., Singh R.B. (2021) IGU-YECG Special Issue: Geospatiality And Sustainable Development Goals. *Geography, Environment, Sustainability*. 14(1):6-8. <https://doi.org/10.24057/2071-9388-2020-196>

b. The vision of the task force is empowering and nurturing future leaders in Geography, therefore, the list of the articles and volumes published by the IGU-YECG steering committee members in English are presented here:

Barbieri DM, Lou B, Passavanti M, Hui C, Hoff I, Lessa DA, **Sikka G**, Chang K, Gupta A, Fang K, Banerjee A. et al. (2021) Air pollution perception in ten countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Ambio*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-021-01574-2>

Barbieri DM, Lou B, Passavanti M, Hui C, Hoff I, Lessa DA, **Sikka G**, Chang K, Gupta A, Fang K, Banerjee A. et al. (2021) Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mobility in ten countries and associated perceived risk for all transport modes. *PLoS ONE* 16(2): e0245886. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0245886>

Becerra M.J., Flores Rangel J.A., Gonçalves C.U., Tovar G.I. (2021) The Indigenous Territories and Local Sustainable Development in the Amazon Region. In: Singh R.B., Chatterjee S., Mishra M., de Lucena A.J. (eds) Practices in Regional Science and Sustainable Regional Development. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-2221-2_4

Becerra, M. J. (2021). Recorrido socioambiental por los territorios indígenas en la Amazonia venezolana. *Espiral, Revista de Geografías y Ciencias Sociales*, 3(5), 85–92. <https://doi.org/10.15381/espiral.v3i5.20872>
Ben-Daoud, M., El Mahrad, B., Elhassnaoui, I., Moumen, A., Sayad, A., El.bouhadioui, M.,

Moroşanu, G.A., El Mezouary, L., Essahlooui, A., Eljaafari, S., (2021). *Integrated water resources management: An indicator framework for water management system assessment in the R'Dom Sub-basin, Morocco*. *Environmental Challenges*, 3, 100062, pp. 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envc.2021.100062>.

Ioana – Toroimac G., Zaharia L., **Moroşanu G.A.**, Grecu F., Hachemi K. (2021). *Water content variability in riparian wetlands: challenges for river restoration on the Lower Danube River*. *Wetlands*. *Journal of the Society of Wetland Scientists*. In Press.

Ioana-Toroimac G., Zaharia L., **Moroşanu G.A.** (2021). *Post-restoration satellite survey of a wetland on the lower Danube River in Romania*, pp. 28-33. In Gastescu, P., Bretcan, P. (edit, 2021).

Mathur V., **Sikka G.** (2021) Rethinking Resettlement as a Development Opportunity: Need for Good Practices. In: Thakur B., Thakur R.R., Chattopadhyay S., Abhay R.K. (eds) Resource Management, Sustainable Development and Governance. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-85839-1_8

Moroşanu G.A., Zaharia L., Minea G., Ioana – Toroimac G., Bonnefous J. (2021). *Hysteretic behavior of liquid discharge and suspended sediments concentration during floods in the Jiu River Basin (Romania)*, pp. 222-230. In Gastescu, P., Bretcan, P. (edit, 2021)

Patra, P., Abhay, R.K., Devi, R., **Sikka, G.**, Gangwar, S. (2021), *Perspectives in Human Geography*, Concept Publications, New Delhi

Sikka, G. and Yong, O.L. C. (2021) Dam-induced displacement and resettlement and masculinities: the case of India and Malaysia, *Gender, Place and Culture* <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0966369X.2021.1931047>

Sikka, G., Bharti, P. (2021) “Impact of Covid-19 Lockdown on the Tribal Communities in India” in Tanya Sharma and Tapan K. Shandilya (eds.) *Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Economy*, Shandilya Publications: New Delhi, pp.103-106

Yenneti, K. (2021). The trilemma of energy justice, Verma, M.K. (ed.), *Environment and Sustainable Development*, Routledge India

E. Archival Contributions

All the reports of meetings were sent to IGU secretariat. We use our Task Force website as a kind of archive. It offers all available meeting reports, photo gallery representing our meetings <http://igu.younggeographers.org/>

It serves also as on-line archive of the Task Force with all meetings, conference alerts, job opportunities available, as well as photo galleries related to the Task Force activities. The

website represents the major tool for exchange of information among the members of the Task Force and other young scholars.

<https://www.facebook.com/IGUYECG/>

IGU-YECG has expanded its online presence through running a fully-fledged, active and updated Facebook page. Regular updates on IGU meetings, IGU-YECG events, young scholar competitions, members' updates and other relevant information is uploaded on the page. A Facebook group is also in process to share academic resources useful for early career academics like Teaching materials, geography promotional material and new research.

F. Productive Use of previous IGU grant like supporting young scholars, publications and seminars from Low Income Countries.

87 USD for SSAG Best Paper Award 2021

This report is structured following the instructions of the IGU Executive Committee.

Dr. Komali Yenneti
Chair, IGU-YECG

Dr. Gaurav Sikka
Secretary and Treasurer, IGU-YECG